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GRANDMA
and
HER FAMILY

BY

Naomi Drake Miller

1952

Foreword and Acknowledgements

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The story of "Grandma and Her Family", was written in the hopes that the generations now living and those generations yet unborn might have some knowledge of the lives and personalities of those ancestors who passed this way in years gone by, each contributing his share to the world's progress, however great or small, then passing on as we all must do. It is hoped that some member of the family, at some future time, will become interested in genealogy and will learn more about our ancestors in this country and be able to trace them back to their origin in the mother countries.

Help was received from various sources in compiling the story and the author hereby wishes to acknowledge this assistance. Mrs. Laura D. Williams contributed generously from her store of knowledge of the life of Mary Ellen Drake, and she also furnished the originals for many of the pictures used. Mrs. Anna Duffy added much to the story. — 929.2 — Miller, Naomi Drake — furnished pictures, as did Raymond M. Bell, E78 — Mrs. M. Gale, Mrs. Warren Drake and Mrs. Delta Nichols.

Grandma and her family
paperbound

The author is indebted to Thomas M. Gale for much of the Drake information; to Eliza 58376 for the author: 1952 records; to Raymond M. Bell for permission to quote from his books, "Our Sigler Ancestors" and "The Bell Family"; to Mr. C. C. Miller for his patience during the months while the story was being compiled, and to all others who have contributed any data, information, etc., that has been used in the story.

In memory of Naomi Drake Miller by
Carroll C. and Thomas J. Miller

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Dedicated
to
The Memory of my Parents

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Chapter I

Hinds, Bells and Siglers

The 23rd of June 1838, had been a soft warm day in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, but toward evening thunderheads had appeared on the horizon. Darkness had come quickly, and soon the storm broke in all its fury, with flashes of lightning and claps of thunder. At the height of the storm a baby girl was born to Stephen Andrew and Matilda Elizabeth Bell Hinds. Could the storm accompanying her birth be an omen of the life this child would lead?

This was the young parents first child and although they had been somewhat in hopes the baby would be a boy, this little girl with the fair curly hair and blue eyes was very dear to them. They soon named her Mary Ellen, but it was not long before she was known as Mollie. Slightly more than 109 years later a great-granddaughter of this Mary Ellen was also named Mary Ellen.

Stephen Andrew Hinds was one of a family of 10 children. He was the 9th child in the family and had been born November 30, 1812. It is thought his father, Stephen Hinds, Sr., born 1775, came from Ireland. Stephen Hinds, Sr., had died on April 11, 1838, at the age of 63 years, just a short time before the new baby was born. He and his wife, Mary Ann Lee, born 1774, had been married November 11, 1793, and had lived east of Vira and kept the Hinds Tavern on the old Northumberland Pike. Here weary travelers had stopped on their stage journey from Lewistown to Northumberland. The house where they had lived was still standing in 1930. The first Post Office in Dacatur Township, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, was at the Hinds Tavern prior to 1812.

In the early days of Stephen's and Mary Ann's residence on the Northumberland turnpike there was much wooded land and many wild animals. The spring was quite a distance from the house--perhaps a hundred feet away. One evening toward dusk, Mary Ann went for water. On her return she felt that something was following her and turning, she saw a panther. She ran for the house, reached the door and entered, closing the door just as the panther sprang against it.

Stephen Hinds, Sr., had learned to play the violin in his youth, and although he became blind before his death no doubt he was still able to get a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction from playing his violin. After the death of Stephen Hinds, Sr., his widow, Mary Ann, moved to Lewistown, Pennsylvania, and lived in a log house. She had the distinction of owning the first ingrain carpet in Lewistown and of course was very proud of this possession. This log house where Mary Ann lived until her death on March 20, 1855, at the age of 81 years, was still standing in 1936. (See Catherine Sheaffer Lee's "History and Descendants of Stephen and Mary Ann Lee Hinds")

Matilda Elizabeth Bell Hinds, born May 17, 1815, the third of a family of 12 children, was a daughter of John Henderson and Mary Sigler Bell. Her father, John Henderson Bell, born November 13, 1791, the oldest of a family of 8 children, was of Scotch Irish descent. His great-grandfather, William Bell, had emigrated to the United States about 1730 and had settled in Pennsylvania shortly thereafter. William Bell was born c 1705 and died October 29, 1783.

John Henderson Bell's grandfather, George Bell, born c 1734, had settled on land in Decatur Township, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, in 1773, and it was on this land that his parents William and Margaret McCartney Bell, were living when John Henderson was born. The grandfather, George Bell, a Captain in the Revolution, (See Pennsylvania Archives, Ser. 5, Vol. 6, Pages 322, 324, 330 and 335) died in March 1816. John Henderson's father, William Bell, born c 1762, died in September 1827, at the age of 65, and his mother Margaret McCartney Bell, in 1843 at the age of 73.

Matilda's mother, Mary Sigler Bell, born January 6, 1792, was a daughter of George Sigler, Jr., and Elizabeth Bunn Sigler, both of whom had been born in Alexandria Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey. The Siglers, who were of German origin, later moved to Pennsylvania and settled on land in what was then Cumberland County, now Mifflin County, in 1775. They were neighbors of the Bells, as they lived only about 2 miles down the valley along Jacks Mountain. Thus John and Mary had known each other since early childhood and were both only 18 when they were married August 22, 1810. (See "The Bell Family" by Raymond M. Bell)

Mary Sigler Bell's father, George Sigler, Jr., born February 17, 1762, had been captured by the Indians in May 1782, when he was 20 years of age, and had been held captive about a year. His father, George Sigler, Sr., had heard that the Indians were over the mountain and had sent George Jr. to the neighboring Bell farm to see if the reports were true. Young Sigler probably followed the old Indian trail along the mountain for it passed near the Bell cabin. About half way to Bells, near a small spring, he was suddenly surprised to see Indians spring out of the bushes. He turned and ran swiftly toward home. The Indians pursue him hurling tomahawks. He was finally felled by a war club which struck him across the neck and shoulders. Before he could regain his feet, the Indians seized him and pointed toward the mountain. He had neither coat nor shoes, and as he was unarmed could do nothing but submit.

There were five Indians and a Canadian Frenchman in the party. When they started up the mountain they gave him a pair of moccasins. After crossing Jacks Mountain they were joined by another party of 5 Indians and a white man. This second party had a white girl with them. They continued their course northward and were soon joined by more Indians. On the first night after being captured, Sigler was tied so tightly around the wrists that he moaned with pain. The Indians would come to where he was lying and stick tomahawks into the ground beside his head. The Frenchman told them to slacken his thongs, as they were too tight and were causing him to moan. This they did and relief followed.

Sigler said their food was generally venison, polecat, and sometimes horse flesh. He was compelled to carry two flatirons in a bag all the way, and was never given a chance to escape as he was always watched by the Indians. On arriving in Canada he was painted black and compelled to run the gauntlet. In the course of his race he knocked down some of the young Indians and succeeded in getting through with but few bruises or scars. This so pleased one of the chiefs that he exchanged another prisoner for him. Sometime later, by a treaty or an exchange, Sigler was freed.

He and another young man came down the Susquehanna River until they reached Northumberland. Here Sigler parted with his companion and went home with Caleb Parshall, one of his father's neighbors, who had gone to Northumberland for salt and groceries. It was ten o'clock at night when they reached

home, but the mother was up with a sick child. Pershall left Sigler outside and went in to prepare her for the meeting. He told her he had seen George in Northumberland that day, and was certain that he would be home soon, perhaps that night. He then called George in, the rest of the family was awakened, and they had a happy reunion. They sat up and talked the remainder of the night. (See "Our Sigler Ancestors" by Raymond Martin Bell)

On May 19, 1811, Mary's mother, Elizabeth Bunn Sigler, died at the age of 42 years, and 10 years later her father, George Sigler, Jr., died at the age of 59 years. They are buried on the Sigler farm, as are other members of the Sigler family.

John Henderson and Mary Sigler Bell were the parents of 12 children. Two of their children were scalded to death at the age of 2 years; one while candles were being made and the other during a butchering. One daughter, Ann Eliza, died at the age of 15 years, but the others all reached maturity and married.

As early as 1825 he was active in school work and in 1834 John Henderson Bell was appointed as one of the first school directors to take charge of the public schools of the Township and form them into Districts. He was a good Christian man and he and his wife were active members of the Presbyterian Church. One evening early in June 1838, he was standing outside talking with a neighbor when he contracted a cold and died on June 8, 1838, at the age of 46 years, of congestion of the lungs. This was just two weeks before the new baby, Mary Ellen, was born to his daughter Matilda Bell Hinds.

At the time of John Henderson's death there were still eight children at home, the youngest Adaline, being but 5 years of age. In addition to Matilda, one son William Sigler Bell, had already married. One daughter, Ann Eliza, died in 1844, six years after her father's death. Mary Sigler Bell kept the family together and carried on the home for 19 years after her husband's death. She died June 19, 1857, at the age of 65 years, after all the children had married. She and her husband are buried in the Vira Presbyterian Cemetery where simple stones mark their graves.

Stephen Andrew Hinds was part Irish, while the little girl's mother, Matilda Elizabeth, was in part German and also part Scotch-Irish. While this combination of nationalities contributed a great deal to the sturdiness of the little girl, it soon became apparent that she was quite stubborn and also possessed a very fiery temper. This was of much concern to the mother, who was very sweet and gentle. In later life this temper was the cause of much unhappiness to Mollie, as well as other members of her immediate family.

Stephen and Matilda Hinds were the parents of 5 children. Mollie, born in 1838, and 3 years later a little sister, Sarah Elmira, always known as Myra. In another 3 years a little brother, John William, was born. This brother was 8 years of age before the 3rd sister, Laura Matilda, (Loll) was born, and it was yet another 3 years before the baby of the family, Clara Jane (Clad), arrived. These children all reached maturity and all married and raised families, Laura being the first to die in 1911 at the age of 59 years. Clara followed in 1913 when she was almost 58 years of age. John William, the only brother in 1914, when he was 70, and Myra in 1920 when she was 79. This left Mollie, the oldest child, as the sole survivor. She died in 1921, at the age of 83 years.

Mollie grew up in a typical farm home of that day which meant that it was a home which was largely self-sustaining, as practically all their food was grown on the farm. Much, if not all, of the weaving was done by the women of the household; sewing machines were unknown so the sewing must be done by hand; wood stoves had only recently replaced fireplaces; home canning was unknown so what foods were put away for winter use must be dried or preserved in molasses; perishable foods were kept in a spring house; wild game was still plentiful and meat was an important item of the daily diet.

It was not an easy life and Mollie early learned the things she most wanted could only be obtained by her own efforts; a trait that was of great benefit to her in later life. While Mollie was a young girl her parents moved from Decatur Township, Mifflin County, where she was born, to the Beaver Dams, near Newton Hamilton, Pennsylvania. Here she grew to young womanhood. As her parents were Presbyterians she attended the Presbyterian Church and while quite young joined this Church. She attended the common schools that were available as she was growing up, and as she grew a little older, for amusements there were spelling bees and singing schools. In the winter time there was ice skating and sleigh rides with bells jingling, and of course young people could always find an opportunity for flirting.

Mollie was a slender, pretty girl, with brown curly hair, fair complexion and blue eyes. At the neighborhood gatherings she could usually be found flirting with some of the young men who found her not unattractive, although she was known to have a fiery temper and a tongue that was not always under control. But there was one tall young man with black hair and snapping black eyes whom she thought by far the finest and most handsome young man in the neighborhood, and as she developed into young womanhood, he decided she was just the girl he had been waiting for.

James A. Drake, or Jim as he was known, was a little over 6 years older than Mollie and thought that he could control the fair Mollie with her temper and tongue, but little did he know his Mollie. About this time a new little sister, Clara Jane, was born to Mollie's parents, and while babies were all right this new sister was a terrible bother. It is thought Mollie attended Kishacoquillas Seminary that fall. This was a new Seminary across the mountain near Belleville that had just opened the previous year. Later her younger sisters, Laura and Clara, also attended this school. Perhaps the parents thought it would be a good idea if Mollie did not see so much of Jim as she was just past 17, but she still kept in touch with him.

The summer Mollie was 17, Jim in company with some of her relatives, and possibly some of his, went to a frontier state just across the Mississippi River called Iowa. They had heard this was a wonderful place with wild game in abundance, wild fruits and nuts of various kinds, and where the crops grew with practically no effort. Also land could be obtained from the Government at a very nominal figure. It was a long trip from Pennsylvania to Iowa and Jim and the other men walked a portion of the distance as there was no means of transportation. He was much impressed with this new land and on September 8, 1855, purchased 40 acres of land from Robert Halsey. This 40 acres was located near the Dagoon Trace in Ringgold County.

Upon his return to Pennsylvania he told Mollie of the wonders of this new land and asked her if she would like to go to Iowa with him and she said she would. Mollie had never been too fond of school, so at Christmas time she left school and she and Jim were married on December 25, 1855.

Chapter 11

Drakes and Postlethwaites

James A. Drake, born February 22, 1832, was a son of James and Elizabeth Postlethwaite Drake. According to tradition, his grandfather, Samuel Drake, was a descendant of a nephew of Sir Francis Drake. It is thought Samuel's ancestors had emigrated from England about 1700 and settled in New Jersey. Here Samuel Drake was born in 1747. Later he moved to Pennsylvania. During the American Revolution Samuel served as a private. (See Pennsylvania Archives 3rd Ser. Vol. 23, Pages 451 and 684. 5th Ser. Vol. 23, Page 272. 5th Ser. Vol. 4, Pages 285 and 624. 5th Ser. Vol. 6, Pages 553 and 645.)

In 1782, Samuel and Nancy Hamilton were married in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. It is thought Nancy Hamilton, born in New Jersey in 1762, was a daughter of Francis Hamilton. In 1783, Samuel established Drake's Ferry across the Juniata River at "Jack's Narrows". For fully 50 years Drake's Ferry was the crossing place over the Juniata River for nearly all the travel and trade between Standing Stone (now Huntingdon, Pa.) and points south and east. Thus it served its enterprising originator and the public well in its busy days.



Drake's Ferry across the Juniata River
Established in 1783 by
Samuel Drake

The following verse commemorating Samuel Drake and Drake's Ferry is taken from a poem written in 1883, by W. W. Fulton, agent for the Pennsylvania Railroad at Mount Union Pennsylvania.

"And here a century old today
 Drake's Ferry lives in name!
 How bright the story of its years!
 How far its patrons came!
 What bustling life, what moving wealth,
 Confided in the skill,
 Of one tradition praises well,
 And loves his memory still!"

Samuel and Nancy Hamilton Drake were the parents of 8 children; 6 daughters and 2 sons as follows:

Mary Elizabeth, B. July 22, 1783, D. July 2, 1867.

M. Apr. 1, 1802, Thomas Irvin Postlethwait. Buried in Postlethwait graveyard.

James, B. Dec. 15, 1787, D. Dec. 5, 1844.

M. Apr. 18, 1809, Mary Elizabeth Postlethwait.

Jane (called Nancy) B. Mar. 29, 1790, D. Sept. 22, 1842.

M. May 10, 1810, Joseph Coulter.

Sarah (Called Sallie) Married Matthew Glasgow and had a son John. She died in 1827 and is buried at Hart's Mill Graveyard.

Elizabeth, Married 1st, Apr. 30, 1806, James Armstrong.

Married 2nd, Aug. 31, 1809, Peter Cornelious.

Rebecca, Married Abram Vandevander on Apr. 24, 1806. She died at the age of 65 years.

Samuel, B. 1801, D. 1867. Married Catherine Baird.

Catherine (Called Katy) Married James Baird.

Samuel Drake, who was a Baptist, died August 11, 1826, at the age of 79 years. Nancy Hamilton Drake, his wife, died January 11, 1833, at the age of 71 years. They are buried in the Matilda Furnace Graveyard. At the time of Samuel Drake's death, his son James Drake, was appointed administrator of his estate. The following is an account of the estate of Samuel Drake:

Sept. 13, 1826. To amount of the Inventory and appraisement of the goods and chattels of said deceased as per Inventory filed in the Registers Office of Huntingdon County.	\$658.49
To cash Recd of Matthew Glasgow	.28
" Ditto of John Wharton	.14
" Ditto of William McNitt	.81
" Ditto of John Mulla	2.12 $\frac{1}{2}$
" Ditto of Joseph Adams	2.37 $\frac{1}{2}$
" Ditto of William Morrison	7.31
" Ditto of John Postlethwait	.50
" Ditto of John Mulla	2.00
" Ditto of Ephrim Doyle	.12 $\frac{1}{2}$
" Ditto of Henry McGowey	2.31
" Ditto of Daniel Shinely	.18 $\frac{3}{4}$
" Ditto of Charles Cox	.79
" Ditto of	1. 50

To Ditto of William Stitt	3.12
" Ditto of W. B. Hudson Esquire on sundry suits on his Docket	10.80
" This amount due by accountant on private account with decd.	13.00
" Cash received of Moses Sines by D. Newingham	.80
	<u>\$706.66</u>

And now to wit, at an Orphans Court held at Huntingdon for the County of Huntingdon on the second Monday in November A.D. 1827. The above account was presented to the Court for confirmation and allowance. Whereupon it is considered by the Court and ordered that the same be confirmed.

Certified by D. R. Porter.

1826 Sept.	By cash paid Register for Letters Testamentary	\$ 4.56
" " 29	" Amount of what the goods sold for less than appraised at	186.23
" " 19	" Cash paid Mary Igo per receipt	3.40
" " "	" Do paid A. Vantrice for crying vendue	4.00
" " 30	" Do paid Joseph Corland poor tax for 1826	.69
" " "	" Do paid Alexander Hamilton per receipt	2.50
" Oct. 3	" Do paid Benjamin Rusler Do	2.50
" " 19	" Do paid John McCahan for printing Do	1.00
" " 23	" Do paid Samuel Witherow for making coffin	6.00
" Nov. 18	" Do paid John Sharer an appraisor per receipt	1.85
" " "	" Do paid Ditto his proven account	18.28 $\frac{1}{2}$
" " "	" Do paid John H. Patton Clerk at vendue	1.12 $\frac{1}{2}$
" Dec. 29	" Do paid John Niece poor tax per receipt	.26
1827 Feb. 10	" Do paid Edward Mason Do	.87
" Mar. 15	" Do paid John Henderson Doctor proven a/c	17.12 $\frac{1}{2}$
" Apr. 11	" Do paid Samuel Morrison per receipt	.50
" " "	" Do paid Thomas T. Cromwell Rents Do	25.00
" " 20	" Do paid Abraham Kurtz Road tax	.94
" May 5	" Do paid John Booker an appraisor	1.75
" " 18	" Do paid William Postlethwait his proven a/c	7.19
" " "	" Do paid Isaac Cornelius Ditto	5.75
" Aug. 7	" Do paid John Hanawalt per rect.	1.25
" Oct. 15	" Do paid John McCahan his proven a/c	18.00
	" An allowance to accountant for his time, trouble and expense in his Administration of said Estate	20.00
	" Cash paid R. Allison for arranging and drawing this a/c and for advice	8.00
	" Cash paid Register for examining, passing and advertising, and copying this a/c	5.50
	" Cash to pay printers	<u>1.00</u>
	" Balance in the hands of the accountants	6.50
		<u>371.32$\frac{1}{2}$</u>
		<u>\$ 706.66</u>

Passed and Allowed on the oath of the Accountant the 15th Oct. 1827.

Before D. R. Porter, Regr.

1828, June 25	By cash paid fees of Orphans Court	1.56
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As can be seen from the above statement, Samuel Drake left an estate

valued slightly in excess of \$700.00.

James Drake, the oldest son of Samuel and Nancy Hamilton Drake, was born December 15, 1787, and on April 18, 1809, he and Elizabeth Postlethwaite were married. Elizabeth Postlethwaite Drake was a daughter of John Postlethwaite, Jr., and Susannah Irvin Postlethwaite. Her grandfather, John Postlethwaite, Sr., was born in England in 1680 and had immigrated to the United States sometime between 1709 and 1713, settling in Chester County, Pennsylvania, with his wife Hylacha and son William. There they built a tavern which was designated as a place for holding several terms of Court, as it was located near the center of population of the County. A tablet and marker were erected on the site by the Lancaster County Historical Society on October 8, 1915, with the following inscription:

On August 5, 1729, at Or
Near This Spot On The
Land of John Postle-
Thwaite, His Majesty, King
George The Second's Jus-
Tices Met For the First
Time in Lancaster County
And Held the Several Courts of Justice,
The Magistrates Present
Were John Wright, Tobias
Hendricks, Andrew Corn-
ish, Thomas Read And
Samuel James. John
Wright Presided.

The Courts Were Held
At Postlethwait's For
August and November
Terms, 1729, And February
May and August Terms,
1730. This Stone And Tab-
let Have Been Erected
By The Lancaster County
Historical Society on Oc-
tober 8, 1915.

John Postlethwaite, Sr., was an intelligent and influential settler and was chosen as the first Treasurer of the County. He was an Indian Trader in 1739, and one of the Overseers of the Poor in 1743. In 1746 he was one of the Justices, and was a member of the Grand Jury of the County in 1733-37-46. He was a member of St. James Episcopal Church at Lancaster and was one of its first two wardens.

It is not known just when Hylacha died, but on April 29, 1731, John Postlethwaite married Miss Mary Metcalf in Christ Church, Philadelphia, and took the bride to his home on the Conestoga River where they continued to live until John's death on March 17, 1749, at the age of 69 years.

John and Mary were the parents of 6 children, some of them quite young at the time of their father's death. John owned almost 500 acres of land in Conestogo Township, but had borrowed the sum of £247 on October 15, 1743, and given a mortgage on the land. When the debt became due the payments were not met according to the stipulations of the mortgage, and the loan commissioners fore-

closed the mortgage after his death, and sold the land to Joseph Pugh for L500, executing a deed to Pugh on June 10, 1756. A few years later Pugh sold it in parts, receiving in all over L3000. Joseph Pugh had already married the widow Mary, and was later appointed guardian of the younger child ren. The records of St. James Episcopal Church show that on Feb. 1, 1753, pew No. 13 was assigned to Mary Pugh, in the right of her former husband, John Postlethwaite, Sr.

John Sr., left a lengthy will disposing of his property. In this will he mentions one mulatto slave Tom, and 2 negro slaves, a negro woman Sal and a negro boy James. These slaves were to stay on the plantation until his son John Jr. reached the age of 21 years, and they would then go to him along with the plantation. Since the land was sold for the mortgage, John Jr., as well as the other children probably received little if any of the inheritance. In the father's will he specifies that John Jr., the oldest son, should receive the major portion of the land which his father then owned. However, the younger sons, Edmund, Richard and Samuel, were to be put to trades suitable for them, at the discretion of the Executors of the Estate.

Pugh was Sheriff of Lancaster County from 1755 to 1757, and sometime between 1760 and July 5, 1770, he moved to Frederick County, Virginia. A deed made by him on the latter date makes no mention of his wife, Mary, so it is presumed that she died previous to 1770

Of the 6 children of John and Mary Postlethwaite, 4 were sons and 2 were daughters. The oldest son was John, Jr., of whom we shall learn more later. Samuel, the 2nd son, was born in 1738, and on October 11, 1760, he married Matilda Rose. He was then in the Provencial Militia. Later he served in the war of the Revolution, wherein he reached the rank of Captain, being appointed October 6, 1777. (See Pennsylvania Archives, Ser. 3, Vol. 23, Pages 395-396) Still later he was a Lieutenant-Colonel and according to tradition he eventually reached the rank of Colonel.

With others, Colonel Samuel Postlethwaite was a party to a contract with the six Nations of Indians, from whom they received the largest tract of land ever conveyed to individuals in this country. The occasion of the deed of this land was that the Indians had committed such depredations upon the property of these colonists that the English Colonial Governor General would make no treaty with them until they had given satisfaction to these parties. The original deed of this land is framed in the State House in Philadelphia.

Two sons of Colonel Samuel, Samuel Jr., and Henry Postlethwaite, later settled in Natchez, Mississippi. Samuel in 1800 and Henry in 1810. In 1834 a grandson of Colonel Samuel, Alexander James Postlethwaite, settled in Natchez. In 1941, two children of Alexander James Postlethwaite were living in Natchez. A daughter, Elizabeth, born December 8, 1851, and a son, Alexander James, Jr., born May 28, 1856. They were both single and lived together in one of the old homes visited on the Garden Pilgrimage that year. There was also a granddaughter of Alexander James, Mary Elizabeth Postlethwaite, born July 28, 1904, living in Natchez in 1941. She was also single, and furnished most of the information relative to the Postlethwaites contained herein.

John Postlethwaite, Jr., father of Elizabeth Postlethwaite Drake, was born in 1737, so was only 12 years of age when his father died. He first married Hannah Wright and raised a family of 3 children. It is presumed Hannah died, as much later he married Susannah Irvin, who was born in 1754. They were the parents of 5 children. John was a private in the American Revolution, spending a portion of several years in the Militia. (See Pennsylvania Archives, Ser. 5, Vol. 7, Pages 357, 1007, 1146, 1014, 374 and 391)

For a number of years John Postlethwaite, Jr., was a Vestryman of St. James Episcopal Church in Lancaster, and was a charter member of the Juliana Library. About 1789 he moved to Mifflin County and settled in Long Hollow, Wayne Township. According to tradition he purchased his homestead for a horse and \$10.00. He died October 6, 1802, and was buried in Mifflin County.

The children of John Postlethwaite, Jr's., 2nd marriage were Thomas Irvin, Samuel, Mary, Jane and Elizabeth. Elizabeth was born September 6, 1790, shortly after her parents moved to Mifflin County. Later she married James Drake, Sr. She was the youngest child of John Jr., and Susannah Irvin Postlethwaite, and was only 12 years of age when her father died. Her mother died in 1833. An older brother of Elizabeth, Thomas Irvin Postlethwaite, married Mary Drake, an older sister of James Drake, Sr., and they raised a family of 10 children.

Although the parents of Elizabeth were members of the Episcopal Church she probably joined the Presbyterian Church, as her husband James Drake, Sr., was a Presbyterian. It is thought that James Drake, Sr., operated Drake's Ferry, at least for a time, as it is known that one of his sons, Thomas Irvin Drake, was born at Drake's Ferry in 1827, which was shortly after the death of James father, Samuel Drake.

Chapter 111

Family of James and Elizabeth P. Drake

James and Elizabeth Postlethwaite Drake were the parents of 10 children, 6 daughters and 4 sons. At first, life had been very happy for them, as financially James was very successful and they had a nice family. But soon their family was stricken with tuberculosis, or pulmonary consumption, as it was then called, and the parents watched their children sicken and die one by one. All their efforts and prayers to stop this most dreaded disease were of no avail, for as yet the doctors had been unable to find a remedy or treatment. Blood-letting, which was a common treatment for most diseases, was of no help whatever for this terrible malady, and oftentimes whole families would die from the disease.

The following is a fairly complete record of this family:

From the dates available, it is possible the two oldest children, Mary Rebecca and Jane Matilda were twins. Mary Rebecca married William Field, and they were the parents of 2 children. Mary Rebecca died September 19, 1837, at the age of 28 years. Her children both died while quite young.

Jane Matilda married James E. Caldwell, and they were the parents of 4 children, but she died of this dread disease on April 9, 1842, at the age of 32 years. Her husband, Captain James E. Caldwell, died in the Mexican War on September 18, 1847. After the death of Jane Matilda, her daughters lived with their Grandmother Drake until her death. They then lived with their Aunt Susan, a sister of their father who had married Edward Purcell. At least two of the children of Jane Matilda reached adulthood, as one daughter Mary Caldwell, later married Thomas Mellon, a brother of Andrew Mellon, and another daughter, Elizabeth Drake Caldwell, later married Dr. George Benson Dunmire.

Samuel Drake, the oldest son, who had been named for his grandfather, Samuel Drake, married Mary Elizabeth McDowell and they had a son named James. Samuel died June 29, 1844, when slightly more than 30 years of age.

John Postlethwait Drake was never married. On the 26th of December, 1840, he made the following will leaving his assets to his father.

Last Will of John P. Drake.

In the name of God Amen: I, John Postlethwait Drake of Wayne Township, Mifflin County and State of Pennsylvania, being sick and weak in body but of sound mind and memory and understanding and considering the uncertainty of this transitory life, do make and publish this my last will and testament in manner and form following to wit. Principally the first of all I commend my immortal soul into the hands of God who gave it and my body to the earth to be buried in a Christian like manner at the discretion of my Executor, herein named, and as to such worldly estate wherewith it has pleased God to bless me with in this life I give and dispose of the same as follows to wit:

I give and bequeath (after paying my just debts and funeral expenses) unto my Father James Drake, all my personal property either mixed or otherwise whatsoever that I may be in any wise possessed of at my death.

And I do hereby constitute and appoint my said Father, James Drake, to be the Executor of this my last will and testament and I do hereby declare this to be my last will and testament and no other. In testimony thereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty sixth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and Forty, in presence of

Thos. I. Postlethwait
Samuel Drake

(Signed) John P. Drake ()
(Seal)
()

John P. Drake was so weak at the time the above will was made that he could barely write his name. He died on January 1, 1841, at the age of 25 years, 7 months and 17 days. No doubt the above Thos. I. Postlethwait and Samuel Drake who sitted his signature, were his uncles. (Note this branch of the family had now dropped the final e of the name Postlethwait.)

Nancy E., the 5th child in the family, was born in 1819, and died on September 7, 1843, at the age of 24 years, 6 months and 14 days. She never married.

Susannah (other records list her as Arabella) was born in 1821, and died July 15, 1838, at the age of 17 years, 2 months and 20 days. She was also unmarried.

Elizabeth, born in 1825, died December 30, 1844, at the age of 19 years, 2 months and 11 days. Also unmarried.

Thomas Irwin, was born November 7th, 1827, and died October 30, 1863, at the age of 36 years.

James A., born February 22, 1832, died May 24, 1868, at the age of 36 years. Married Mary Ellen Hinds on December 25, 1855.

Josephine, the baby of the family, was born July 22, 1834, and died October 2, 1849, at the age of 15 years, 2 months and 10 days.

James Drake, Sr., father of the above family, died on December 5, 1844, at the age of 57 years. There were 3 deaths in the family in the year 1844, Samuel having died in June, James Sr. the father, on December 5, and Elizabeth on December 30 of the same year. James Sr. was buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery in Newton Hamilton, Pennsylvania, and probably most of the children were buried there also.

James Drake, Sr., left considerable property, and a will disposing of his property, as is shown by the following instruments:

Mifflin County, SS.

Before me, J. R. Crawford Register for the Probate of Wills and granting Letters of Administration in and for said County. - Personally appeared John Hamilton and Alexander Hamilton subscribing witnesses to the annexed instrument of writing, purporting to be the testament and last will of James Drake late of Wayne Township deceased. And being duly Sworn do say that they were personally present and did hear the testator therein named, James Drake deceased, acknowledge the hand and seal thereunto annexed to be his. That they heard the said Testator

acknowledge the hand and seal thereunto annexed to be his. That they heard the said Testator acknowledge the said instrument of writing to be his last Will and Testament--that the said Testator was then of sound or disposing mind and memory as they each of them verily believe--that they wrote their names thereunto as witnesses, in the presence of the said Testator, at his the said Testator's request, and in the presence of each other.

Sworn and subscribed the 20th day)
of December A.D. 1844)
J. R. Crawford Register.)

Alex Hamilton
John Hamilton

Mifflin County, SS.

Before me J. R. Crawford Register for the Probate of Wills and granting Letters of Administration, in and for said County.- Personally appeared John Purcell the executor named in the Testament and last Will of James Drake late of Wayne Township deceased. And being duly sworn doth say that he will well and truly administer all and singular the goods, chattles, rights and credits, which were of the said James Drake deceased, agreeably to the said Testament and last Will. That he will make, or cause to be made, an accurate inventory or conscionable appraisement thereof, and exhibit the same into the Register's office in and for the said County. That he will make a just and true account, calculation and reckoning of his said administration in one year from this time or when thereunto lawfully required. And further, that he will diligently and faithfully regard and well and truly comply with the provisions of an act of Assembly, entitled an act relative to collateral inheritance, passed the 7th day of April, 1826.

Sworn and subscribed the 20th day)
of December A. D. 1844.)
J. R. Crawford Register.)

John Purcell

Of the ten children which Elizabeth had borne, only 2 sons and 2 daughters were left when her husband died. Namely, Thomas Irvin, named for his uncle Thomas Irvin Postlethwait, James A., Elizabeth, who died soon after her father, and the baby of the family, Josephine. The mother, Elizabeth Postlethwait Drake, lived for 10 years after the death of her husband, dying on October 1, 1854, at the age of 65 years. She also was buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery in Newton Hamilton.

Evidently the estate of James Drake, Sr., was not divided until after the death of his widow, Elizabeth, in 1854, as on February 28, 1857, the following letter was written to Thomas I. Drake by Andrew Parker, an Attorney:

Mifflintown, Feb. 28th/57

Mr. Thomas I. Drake

Dear Sir; Your favor of the 26th Feb. is recd. I owe you an apology for not sending the will according to promist. I really forgot it--and this is my excuse. Rather a poor one I admit--I have not sufficient data upon which to make a statement exhibiting your share in your fathers estate. Certainly you are wrong in supposing that you and James would be entitled to Josephine's share, as the purchasers of Fields interest. If Josephine as you say survived both of his children--Josephine's share would go to her surviving brothers and sisters, and neices and nephews if any, or in other words would to to her legal heirs.

You say the estate is to be divided among 4 lines--these four are, I suppose, Matilda Caldwell's 4 children--each one half share or 2 full shares. James, son of Samuel 2 shares. Thomas & James each 3 shares or 6 shares. Now if I am right and if Elizabeth is dead and survived both Fields children, then the following will share each child's share--

Amount to be distributed \$6768.41

To be divided into sixteen shares, each	\$423.02
Matilda's children--2 shares	846.04
James, son of Samuel 2 "	846.04
Mary Fields 2 children 2 "	846.04
Josephine 2 "	846.04
Elizabeth 2 "	846.04
Thomas 3 "	1269.06
James 3 "	1269.06
	<u>6768.41</u>

6768.41

Elizabeth and Josephine died leaving Matilda's children, James, son of Samuel, Thomas and James--as I understand the case.

Elizabeth's share	846.04
Josephine's "	<u>846.04</u>

1692.08

To be divided into 4 shares--each share

423.02

Matilda's children's share	423.02
James, son of Samuel "	423.02
Thomas "	423.02
James "	<u>423.02</u>

1692.08

Recapitulation

Matilda's children legacy under the will	846.04
" " as heirs of their Aunt	
Josephine and Elizabeth	<u>423.02</u>

1269.06

James, son of Samuel legacy under the will	846.04
--	--------

846.04

" " " " as heir of Elizabeth and Josephine	
--	--

423.02

1269.06

Thomas Drake, legacy under the will	1269.06
-------------------------------------	---------

1269.06

" " as heir of Elizabeth and Josephine	
--	--

423.04

1692.10

James Drake, legacy under the will	1269.06
------------------------------------	---------

1269.06

" " as heir of Elizabeth and Josephine	
--	--

423.04

1692.10

Recapitulation

Total Amt.

6768.41

Matilda's children's share

1269.06

James, son of Samuel "

1269.06

Thomas in right of Fields $\frac{1}{2}$ 423.02

Thomas Share 1692.10

2115.12

James in right of Fields $\frac{1}{2}$ 423.02

James share 1692.10

2115.12

6768.41

The foregoing calculation is based on the supposition that you and James own the share of Fields Sr. and that Elizabeth and Josephine both survived the children of Fields.

Respectfully

And. Parker.

As can be seen from the above letter, James Drake, Sr., left an estate that must have been considered quite a fortune in those days.

Thomas Irvin Drake was married in 1854, and was the father of 3 children, 2 sons and 1 daughter. His oldest son, David Sterrett Drake, resided in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, for many years and was the father of 2 children, Walter and Gretta. David Sterrett died in 1928, but his daughter Gretta is still living in Huntingdon. Another son of Thomas Irvin, Frank Irvin Drake, moved to Jewel City, Kansas, in 1881 and there raised a family of 4 sons; Clarence and Ralph who were bankers in Mankato, Kansas, in 1923; John who lived in St. Joseph, Missouri, at that time, and Charles who was an instructor in the Air Force during World War 1 and was killed in a crash in California in 1918. A daughter of Thomas Irvin, Mary Elizabeth, married and raised a family of 3 children, but was a widow in 1923 and lived in Orlando, Florida. Her son, Thomas Mellon Galey, now lives in Owensboro, Kentucky, and furnished most of the information relative to the family of James and Elizabeth P. Drake.



The above picture of Thomas Irvin Drake was probably taken while he was in his late twenties.

The following is a portion of a letter written by Thomas I. Drake on May 24, 1856:

"Dr. C. M. Fites
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Dr. Fites:

We were a large family of six sisters and four brothers who are all dead excepting myself and brother James. They died of what our physician called pulmonary consumption. The oldest died at the age of 32. My parents both died of the same disease, my father at 57 and my mother at 65. The girls died at the ages of 28, 32, 25, 17, 19 and 15. And the boys at 30 and 25, two of us now living.

My residence is in Mifflin County, Pa., near Newton Hamilton, occupation, Farmer. I have been married two years last November. I am tolerably strong yet, being lean with large muscles. I am neither tall nor short; height 5' 10", and very straight. Waist measure 27½" and hips 35". I have not been able to farm for the past 18 months since October 1854. Previous to that time I could endure pretty hard work. I have not had good health since October 1854, at which time I took to bleeding at the lungs caused by over-exercise.

At times the bleeding would cease for a week or two months. If you can prescribe for me I would be pleased to hear from you as I see by the papers you have been curing many of this disease.

(Signed) Thomas I. Drake "

The doctor's response to this letter was a request for \$30.00 for treatment. All Thomas I. Drake's efforts to find a cure for this illness were in vain, as he died of pulmonary consumption on October 30, 1863, at the age of 36 years. He was buried at Newton Hamilton, Pennsylvania.

No doubt James A. Drake continued to live in the home with his mother until her death in 1854. It must have been a home of sorrow, sickness and sad memories as they thought of those brothers and sisters who had been stricken so early in life. Too, they must have been filled with despair as they knew there was little hope but that they too would be victims of this terrible malady.

Both the Drakes and Postlethwaites were families of English ancestry and they wished their children to carry on the English customs. According to tradition the relatives were not at all happy about the marriage of this Drake son to Mollie, a girl who was descended from Irish, Scotch and German ancestors.

Mollie's parents were none too happy either about the marriage, as they were reluctant to see this attractive, headstrong young daughter, with the curly brown hair and blue eyes, marry a young man who was from a family that had been almost entirely destroyed by consumption. They were very fearful that their daughter would also contract the disease.

Chapter 1V

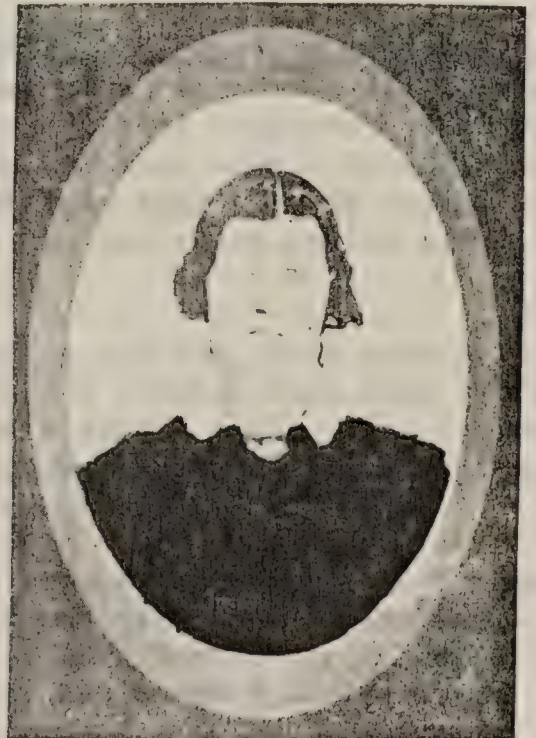
A Journey They Did Take

Since neither Jim's family nor Mollie's family was happy about the marriage, the young couple felt their choice of a new home far from either family was probably for the best. Some of their relatives had gone as far as Ohio and settled, and two of Mollie's Aunts had even ventured to Illinois, but Iowa was such a new land and so far away. To Mollie's parents it seemed that they would never see her again. Perhaps too, Jim felt that if he could just go to a new land and leave all his sad memories and associations behind, he would be able to escape the fate which had befallen the other members of his family.

Shortly before leaving for their new home they had their pictures taken one day while in Newton, Hamilton, as this was something Mollie's parents wished them to do before starting on their long perilous journey. Mollie did not see these pictures until many years later when they were sent to her from Pennsylvania. When she did see them she recognized Jim, but failed to recognize her own picture and wondered who the woman was, until her son John said "Why that is your picture, Ma".



James A. Drake



Mary Ellen Hinds Drake

Early the next year they packed their few possessions and started for the new land beyond the Mississippi; neither ever to return to Pennsylvania again. To Mollie's parents the parting was heartbreaking, as they knew that life on the frontier with all its dangers, lack of medical attention, and hardships was sure to be difficult for this 17 year old bride. To Mollie it was a wonderful adventure for she was much in love with this young man with the black hair and snapping black eyes. Iowa did seem quite a distance away, but the journey would be exciting, then there would be the thrill of establishing their home in a new land. She was strong and healthy and had never yet found many things of which to be afraid, so the young couple started out to carve their life and home in a new land.

Railroads were a comparatively new means of travel early in 1856, but there was a railroad passing through Newton Hamilton, so Jim and Mollie decided to go by rail, at least part of the way. This proved to be quite an experience as the trains of those early days left much to be desired in the way of comfort. Wood was used for fuel and the sparks that the train left in its wake started many grass and forest fires along the way.

During the winter the coaches were heated by a wood stove in one end of the coach, but in the summer they were almost unbearably hot as the windows were small and were nailed shut to prevent the sparks from flying in and starting a fire in the coach. Candles, or lamps burning lard-oil, were used for lighting the coaches, and at night their faint glow barely penetrated the darkness. The seats were most uncomfortable as they were either benches along the sides of the coach, or double seats so narrow two people had much difficulty sitting in the same seat. There were no sleeping accommodations of any kind and the passengers must either sleep as best they could on the seats and benches, or stop at some point along the way and spend the night.

Each railroad had a separate station and sold only tickets on its own line. When passengers arrived at the end of one line they must transfer their baggage, etc., to another station, buy another ticket as far as that line went, then repeat the whole performance when arriving at the end of that line. Schedules were very uncertain as the trains could leave a station only when an engine was available and often it was hours, or even a whole day before an engine would arrive which could be used.

The rails would often split and throw the engine off the track then all male passengers must help place the engine back on the track before they could proceed, and they often had to push the train over a slight grade. The train seldom made more than 10 miles an hour and as there were many delays a journey of any distance would necessarily require much time.

As Jim and Mollie did not care to reach Iowa before the weather moderated somewhat, it is thought they stopped along the way and visited with the relatives who had already moved farther west. Mollie's Aunt Rachel Hinds had married Mollie's Great-uncle Jacob Sigler, and they had moved to Ohio a good many years before. Possibly they stopped to see them as they passed through Ohio. Mollie had two aunts living in Illinois and they also visited with them on their way to Iowa. While visiting her Aunt Adeline, who was only 5 years older than Mollie, they made the acquaintance of a new little cousin, Mary Illinois Haller, who was then only a year and a half old.

A portion of their trip was made by boat and Mollie later told how everyone was so nice to them. The Captain of the boat made a special effort to show them every courtesy when it was discovered they had only recently been married. One of the other passengers became quite ill while on the boat, so Jim and Mollie let the sick passenger have their cabin and everyone on the boat remarked how considerate it was of the newly weds.

They probably went up the Des Moines River as far as Ottumwa, Iowa, as there was a trail of sorts westward from Ottumwa. It was at this point that the pioneers started on their journey overland with team and wagon. Here they had a wait of several days while Jim purchased a team and wagon, as they too must make the rest of their journey by covered wagon.

It is not known whether the team was horses or oxen, but it was probably oxen as they were more commonly used at that time. The roads were little more than trails and the oxen were more patient in fording streams and traveling through the seemingly bottomless mud of the trails. Provisions must be purchased for use along the way, and they must also buy enough staple items to last for some time after they reached their new home. Possibly a few pieces of furniture were also purchased but no doubt the furniture in their new home was limited to the barest essentials, at least for the first few months.

The trip from the Des Moines River westward was a wonderful experience and one that Mollie always remembered with pleasure as long as she lived. The prairie was perfectly beautiful that spring as the grass was growing luxuriantly after the spring rains, and the wild flowers were a riot of color. It seemed there were birds singing and making their nests everywhere, and many times they saw wild animals slipping away to hide in the tall grass or trees as they passed by. Much of the vegetation was the same as that grown in Pennsylvania, but there were also new flowers to be seen, and new plants, trees, and fruits to investigate.

They probably followed the old Mormon Trail westward until it intersected the Dragoon Trace. The Dragoon Trace was the only road leading to Ringgold County and this they followed the rest of the way. This Trace had first been a buffalo trail, then had been used by the Indians, and later used by the soldiers in traveling from Ft. Des Moines, Iowa, to Leavenworth, Kansas. The soldiers were called "Dragoons", hence the name Dragoon Trace.

As the settlers were coming into Southern Iowa they had followed the Trace until it was now almost a road. Of course there were no bridges and the streams and rivers must be forded, but unless there had recently been a heavy rain or a spring thaw, that was no great trouble. After the spring thaws the mud was terrible, but the travelers could always pull over on fresh sod.

On Jim's trip to Iowa the previous summer he had purchased 40 Acres of land. This land was the S.E. corner of the N.W. Quarter, Section 7, Monroe Township, and was located about one half mile from the Dragoon Trace. He now decided to file on 160 Acres of land that bordered the Dragoon Trace on one corner. This corner would be used as a building site as it would be a good location for the store that he wished to establish

The Land Office was at Chariton, Iowa, so leaving Mollie at a hotel, possibly in Afton, he and some other men made the trip to Chariton. Here Jim filed on the S.E. Quarter of Section 7, Monroe Township, Ringgold County, Iowa. He received a patent for the land on January 15, 1858. While Mollie was staying in the hotel she noticed the landlady was having a great deal of trouble trying to make some dresses and aprons for her little girl. Mollie offered to help and did such nice work the mother was so pleased that she offered to pay her for the work, but Mollie refused pay.

The travel on the Dragoon Trace was quite heavy for those days, as in addition to the soldiers, new settlers were coming in constantly. There were few points along the trace where provisions could be purchased and Jim thought the land that he had selected would be an ideal location for a store.

Almost 75 years after Jim and Mollie first settled on their land, portions of this old Trace or road still could be plainly seen on land that had never been plowed up. One place was just north of Woodland School, where a very distinct road could be followed through the timber to Lotts Creek at the foot of the hill.

Another place was on what was known as the Bill Allen Hill, just west of the present road, where two distinct roads could be plainly seen. (Note: The land on which this latter road was located, was later owned by my father, T.A. Drake. I remember once asking him what caused those marks on the side hill and he told me it was an old road. He never plowed up the field; possibly he wished to preserve the road marks for sentimental reasons, then too it was a rather steep side hill.)

A well had been dug at the foot of this hill on a small stream, possibly for use of the soldiers, but it was also used by all who passed by. The stream was bordered by beautiful trees, as well as berry bushes and plum thickets. Grass grew luxuriantly in the little valley, so it would have made a beautiful camp site, and no doubt many a weary traveler camped for the night on the banks of the stream near the water well. This well is still in use and is owned by a member of the family.

Chapter V

A New Family In A New Land

When Jim and Mollie arrived at their new home in Monroe Township, there were only two other families living in the Township and they were quite a distance away. At first they felt rather lonely and just a little uneasy, as it was not long before they discovered a tribe of Indians was living several miles to the north of them. As the Indians often passed by they always tried to keep their shotgun handy. There were so very many things to do that spring they really had very little time to worry.

First a fire "backguard" must be made around their building site as there was always the threat of prairie fires. This was done by plowing up several furrows of the sod, then about 30 feet farther out from the the building site, several more furrows were plowed up. On a still day the grass on the 30 foot strip between the furrows was burned off, thus leaving a bare strip which served as a fire guard. Then some of the sod that had been plowed up was prepared for a garden and they planted some of the seed that had been brought from Pennsylvania. Their potatoes and radishes did exceptionally well that first year and they soon had all they could use.

A log house and a shelter for their livestock was built. The neighbors were very friendly and helped Jim cut and haul the logs for the house, and also helped put the logs in place. They wanted two rooms in their house as Jim planned to have a small store where he could keep a stock of goods such as the settlers would need. He knew it would not be long before they would have many neighbors and the nearest store was in Mt. Ayr, some 10 or 12 miles from their new home. Mt. Ayr had only recently been laid out as the County Seat, and while he was sure it would grow to be quite a city, as yet there were only a few log houses and one store that also served as Post Office.

The merchandise for Jim's store must be hauled from Ottumwa and this presented quite a problem as Mollie must be left alone while he was gone. Already she and Martha Oliver, the wife of one of their two neighbors, were good friends so the first time he left Mollie spent the nights with Martha and her husband Isaac. Somewhat to Mollie's consternation, she now realized that she was pregnant and this added greatly to their problems. Of course there were no doctors for many miles, but a doctor had not always been necessary in Pennsylvania so that did not worry her too much.

Martha had lost a baby not long before this and she took a great deal of interest in the coming event. Of course Jim would be there at the time of the baby's birth, and Martha promised Mollie that she would come and be with her too. Never-the-less Mollie often wished that her mother was near to advise her and to be with her when the baby was born. She was so very busy she really did not have time to think too much about herself as there were wild berries of various kinds, wild plums, grapes, nuts and other foods that must be gathered and stored for winter use. Wild game was plentiful so as long as Jim could find time to hunt meat was no problem. There was an abundance of wild hay and grass to be cut and stacked in order that the stock might be fed during the coming winter.

By the time the first snow fell their log house was built and Jim had acquired a small stock of merchandise for his store. Preparations were made for the baby that would soon arrive. As Mollie found time she had been carefully sewing small dresses and other small garments, in addition to knitting many warm articles of clothing which she knew the new baby would need.

The Indians often passed by now and sometimes would stop and buy some small item from the store, but they must always be watched or things that had not been paid for would be missing after they left. Mollie was learning to deal with them and there was very little pilfering that escaped her watchful eye. The Indians were also a help in a way as by watching them she learned which of the wild fruits and nuts were edible and which of the various plants, herbs, leaves and bark were used as medicine.

Finally Mollie's first baby was due and she sent Jim hurrying off to bring Martha. Martha had been expecting the call and was there very shortly and in due time a little son was safely delivered to Mollie and Jim on December 3, 1856, not quite a year after they were married. Martha stayed and cared for the new baby and his mother a few days, but it was not long before Mollie was up, caring for her baby and about her usual duties.

Although Jim had never known his mother's father and grandfather, who were both named John Postlethwaite, his mother had told him much about them as he was growing up. Also he had been very fond of his older brother who had been named John Postlethwait Drake. This brother had died in 1841 at the age of 25 years. He wished his new son to carry on the name of John Postlethwait Drake, and to this Mollie consented. Her grandfather Bell's name had been John, and it was also her only brother's name, so John suited her perfectly. However, it was not too long before the new baby was also known as "Posey"; a name that at least part of the family called him all his life. It is thought John was the first white baby born in Monroe Township.

Since Jim's father and mother were both from English families he wished his oldest son to be raised as a gentleman in accordance with English tradition, even though he was born far from England and in a new State which required its citizens to be far more than just gentlemen. Thus early in John's life it was agreed that he should receive the best education available and would be exempt from the hard labor that they were rapidly finding was necessary to exist in this new home of theirs.

The first winter was much colder with more snow than the winters to which they were accustomed in Pennsylvania and they were very thankful for their log house, though they did wish there were not so many places for the snow to sift through when the wind was blowing hard. At least they could keep fairly warm, even though it did keep Jim busy cutting wood to keep the fires going. They heard from Jim's only living brother occasionally and from Mollie's parents and sisters, but mail service was very slow and uncertain and it often took weeks for a letter to reach its destination. Although they knew the Pennsylvania relatives were waiting anxiously to hear of the new baby's safe arrival, they also knew it would be some little time before news of his birth reached them.

The short winter days passed rapidly and soon it was spring again. They had found a few maple trees which they tapped for maple syrup, although they found the sap was not as sweet as from the maple trees in their former home. Also they

were very happy because they had found some wild bee trees which they had robbed. Sugar was almost unknown so anything sweet was highly prized. With the coming of spring there was much to be done as a new garden must be planted and cared for, and fields of corn and wheat must be planted. They now had a cow and chickens which provided much needed milk and eggs, but of course they must be fed, so food must be raised for the stock as well as for themselves. They did hope their wheat would do well as they were growing somewhat weary of the corn bread, hominy and corn meal mush as a daily diet.

Soon it was time to pick and store the wild berries again, and sometimes Mollie had to go quite a distance from the house in order to find as many as she wished. At first she wondered just how she would manage the baby, but she soon learned that she could hold him when riding a horse, then when she reached the berry patch he could be left under a tree or bush. Although the Indians had been moved to a Reservation farther west, wandering bands would come through occasionally and even though they were friendly for the most part, Mollie always thought it best to stay out of their way as much as possible. She had never been afraid of many things and really felt that she could cope with the Indians but Jim thought it best to be more cautious.

When going after supplies for the store Jim always took along a few bags of grain which he had ground into meal at the grist mill while he was buying his merchandise. Mollie now stayed alone while he was gone as the chores must be done and the store must be looked after. As Jim had anticipated, new neighbors were coming in all the time and this brought new business for his store. Also the soldiers, Indians and other travelers on the Dragoon Trace stopped occasionally and bought articles, but still the store was not prospering as much as he had expected. Supplies must still be hauled from Ottumwa, and this took many days with a slow plodding team and heavy wagon. Of course the cost of the trip must be added to the cost of the merchandise and this made it rather expensive. He soon found his customers only bought those few items that were absolutely necessary.

When combing her hair, Mollie now noticed that she had a few gray hairs, but as her hair was light brown they were not too noticeable and anyway, she couldn't be bothered by a little thing like gray hair. They were working hard, but did take time out occasionally to help, or visit with their neighbors, or for a trip to Mt. Ayr, the new County Seat. Jim was one of the Petit Jurors in September 1857, but as usual when he was away, Mollie must stay at home and care for the stock and store. Jim was feeling fine so was sure the move to a different climate had been a wise move, even though life was not easy and they must do without many of the things that were taken for granted in Pennsylvania.

They had selected a building site some little distance from a stream and while it was a beautiful location, there was no water nearby. When the nearest streams would go dry in the summer or during a drouth, they must go about one and a half miles down the Dragoon Trace in order to get drinking water. Mollie loved to ride a horse so would hang a keg on either side of the horse, climb on, and away she would go after water, leaving Jim to care for the baby. Housework was always boring for Mollie; she would so much rather be outside doing things, so was always happy when it was time to gather the wild fruits, nuts and other foods that must be gathered and stored for winter use. There were many times when she was not happy and Jim was learning to his sorrow that she had very little control over her tongue when displeased. About the only way he could escape the tongue lashings was to leave the immediate vicinity.

That winter Mollie found she was again pregnant and was not too happy about it, as caring for a baby under such trying conditions was no easy matter. Providing food for another mouth would be hard enough, but in addition there was the sewing that must all be done by hand, knitted garments must be made, and always there was not enough water. She must also be doctor as well as nurse and she was always fearful lest the baby would get sick and she would not know what to do. Soon her friend, Martha Oliver confided that she was also expecting a baby, and when comparing dates they found their babies would be due about the same time. They wondered what they would do if their babies should arrive just a few hours or days apart, but more neighbors were coming in constantly so decided they would be able to get help from someone.

Again winter passed into spring, and spring into summer and on a hot day in August Mollie again sent Jim hurrying after Martha, who climbing on a horse with a great deal of difficulty, rushed to Mollie's assistance. In due time another little son was safely delivered to Jim and Mollie on August 21, 1858, not quite two months after Mollie's 20th birthday. Jim wished this son named for his only living brother, Thomas Irvin Drake, but Mollie thought it about time there was a name chosen from her side of the family so they selected the name Andrew, which was her father's middle name, and named the baby Thomas Andrew Drake. It is not known, but it is possible Andrew was also Jim's middle name.

Martha stayed and cared for the family a few days, then felt she had best get on back home as it would not be long before her own baby arrived, so climbing on a horse with yet more difficulty, she returned home to await the coming of her baby. In about a week after her return home, Martha sent Isaac hurrying after Mollie with the urgent message to come at once. Leaving John with his Pa, Mollie climbed on the horse behind Isaac and taking the baby Tom in her arms, they hurried to Martha's assistance. Arriving at Martha's house, she placed Tom on the bed behind Martha and said to her "Now grunt, you have something to grunt for". Finally a little son was safely delivered to Martha and Isaac on September 5, 1858. Mollie cared for Martha and both babies a few days, then felt she must go home as she knew Posey was needing his mother, so mounting her horse and taking her baby in her arms she rode home.

Martha and Isaac named their son Franklin Perry Oliver, and as the little boys were growing up, Tom and Frank often played together and in later years were brothers-in-law as Frank married Mary Jane (Jennie) Landreth and Tom married Dora Caroline (Dode) Landreth, a younger sister of Jennie. Thus these two boys whom fate had thrown so close together at their birth, were destined to always be in close contact.

While Tom was still a small baby, a wandering band of Indians stopped at the store one day and while Mollie was in the back room for a few minutes getting some small article which they wanted, one of the Indians picked up Tom, who had been left in the store while his mother was in the other room. Leaving the building the Indians started for their horses. Mollie returned about the time they passed through the door and ran after them crying "Give me back my baby, I want my baby". Turning, the Indian handed Mollie her baby. They then climbed on their horses and rode away, but Mollie never again left the Indians alone with her children.

As their children learned to talk, they were taught to call their parents Pa and Ma. This they called them for years. Many, many years later their youngest son still calls them Pa and Ma when speaking of them.

The summer Tom was two and John three and a half, Mollie was working in the garden one morning, and as was her custom, had left Posey in the house to look after Tom. As babies will, Tom had an accident and his pants were very damp. John knew things would dry if placed near a fire, so decided it would be a good idea to place Tom on the stove to dry his pants. He removed one of the lids from the top of the stove and then placed Tom over the fire. Immediately Tom raised a terrible uproar, so John removed him from the stove but not before he was badly burned. The burn left a scar which Tom carried to his dying day.

Although Jim and Mollie had few of the luxuries of life, they were not as poor as some of their neighbors. Jim was often called upon to loan a neighbor a few dollars to buy some of the necessities that were needed by the neighbors family. Jim and Mollie were always ready to help if they thought the loan was really needed. Jim was a good stock man and would often take some poor, thin animal as payment of a loan. This he would then fatten up and sell at a profit. He was always ready to trade and was usually very shrewd with his trading. Soon he had a great deal of livestock. Since there were now new neighbors all around them, who had settled near the store, there was no free range for his stock.

After giving the matter serious consideration, Jim and Mollie decided it would be well to sell their store and buy land farther to the west of them. A new settler named Alex Blackmore wished to buy the store, and in 1862 Jim sold his store and land located on the Dragoon Trace at a very nice profit. The Blackmores continued to keep a store and Post Office there for many years, and the location is still known as "Blackmore Corner".

Jim learned of 80 Acres which was to be sold by the Government for the taxes due upon it, and this land he purchased after selling the land and store that had been their first home in Iowa. This new land was located some two miles west of their former home.

After selling their store and land, Jim and Mollie decided to go back to Illinois that winter and Jim would teach school. Possibly they again visited with Mollie's Aunts. The trip was made in a covered wagon and Mollie would ride on ahead toward evening and locate a camp site where they would spend the night. One day they spied a ripe pumpkin in a farmers field and decided a pumpkin pie would taste very good, so they picked the pumpkin, Mollie cooked it and later made a pumpkin pie. Where they were able to get milk for the pie is not known--possibly from another farmer's cow as they were passing by. Tom could always remember that his father carried him across the streams on his shoulders. It is thought the family made another trip back to Illinois a year or so later and Jim again taught school. Money was scarce and they were having a hard time getting along, so the extra money that Jim made was very welcome.

Chapter VI

War Years

Returning to their new land in the spring Jim and Mollie found much to occupy their time. Again a house and other buildings must be built, but this time there were saw mills in the County where lumber could be purchased, or where their own logs could be made into lumber. They built a small frame house this time, of which they were very proud, and found it much more comfortable than the log house in which they had been living. Later this house burned to the ground and was replaced by another frame house. Many years later, when it was very old, this second frame house also burned.

As a site for their new home, they chose a location on a hill about one half mile from quite a large stream. This stream was seldom dry so they felt their stock would always have an ample supply of water. To the north and west there were no settlers so their stock could roam at large and there would be an abundance of hay and grass.

With the help of the neighbors they soon had the buildings erected. They selected a spot for their garden, and decided they must put in an orchard as soon as possible. There were many wild plums, crabapples, berries of various kinds, and grapes on the creek near their home, but they longed for the sweeter and milder fruits which they had known in Pennsylvania. Most of the prairie around their new home was uncultivated and the wild flowers were beautiful in the spring and summer.

Now that Mollie did not have to help care for the store she could spend more time outside caring for the garden and the stock, and helping with the harvest of their crops. She loved to be out in the open and Jim was glad to have her help as he always had a cough now which they seemed to be unable to cure, and there were many times when he was extremely tired. There were times when Mollie was tired too, and at such times her Irish temper would flare up and she could not control her tongue. Jim had now found a way to escape from the unpleasant things that she said; he would simply climb on his horse, ride away and not return until he thought she was in a more pleasant mood.

These were war years and times were very hard. Money was scarce and it was increasingly difficult to buy supplies so they must raise all their food they possibly could, and as much of their clothing as possible must be made from the materials near at hand. Corn did extremely well, but wheat was more difficult to raise so corn bread and corn meal mush were standard items of their daily diet. Ground corn was roasted and used as a coffee substitute as it was now impossible to buy coffee.

Wild game, which had been so abundant, was growing less each year for each new settler took his toll of the wild life. They seldom saw the Indians now as their new home was some distance from the Dragoon Trace, the road most often used by the Indians. Then too, the Indians were becoming accustomed to their new home on the Reservation in Kansas and did not come back to their old haunts so frequently. Since the County was becoming more settled and the wild game was being killed off, it was not so attractive to the Indians.

There were frequent reports of raids by the Rebel forces, which occurred not far to the South of them, and this always created terror in their hearts. The Rebels would kill the men, take the horses and other valuables, and leave the women and children filled with fear, grief and dismay. More and more men from the neighborhood were volunteering for military duty and Jim felt that he should go also, but Mollie begged him not to go as he was coughing more frequently now and she feared he would never return. In the summer of 1863 they received word that Jim's brother, Thomas Irvin, was very ill and could not live long, then that fall they received word that he had passed away on October 30, at the age of 36 years--a victim of consumption. He was buried in Newton Hamilton, Pennsylvania.

Amidst all the trouble, confusion, hardships and worry of the war years, Mollie found that she was again pregnant, and on April 10, 1864, another little son was born to Jim and Mollie. This son, whom they named Willis Edmond, was by far the fairest of their three sons, with sandy hair and a skin so white it was almost transparent. Later Mollie made little sunbonnets for him to keep the sun from burning his face and neck. Shortly after the baby's birth the Government issued a call for Volunteers to serve in the Army for 100 days, and Jim felt that he must go, so enlisted for 100 days in either May or June of 1864.

With his going Mollie was left alone on the farm with two small boys, not yet six and eight years of age, and a small baby to care for, just at the time of year when crops must be planted, cared for and harvested. She boarded up the windows of her house in order that the Rebels would think the house was vacant should they pass that way, and leaving the older boys to attend the new baby as best they could, she cared for the livestock and crops, and even put up hay to be used as feed for the stock in the coming winter. That summer while Jim was away, some neighbors driving a team of oxen came by one day and wanted Mollie to go with them to gather plums. Leaving the baby with the older boys, she climbed in the wagon with her neighbors and went to pick the wild plums which she knew they would need for food that winter.

It is not known just where Jim served during his period in Service, but while he was in Service a letter was written his sister-in-law in Pennsylvania from Olive View, Tennessee, dated August 28, 1864. From this it is thought he was probably in some of the battles. Jim returned home in the fall, not at all well, as the exposure to all kinds of weather and the hardships of Army life had caused his cough to become much worse. They were now sure he also was a victim of consumption. The following discharge was received by Jim shortly after his return home. This discharge has been treasured by the family all these years and is now in the possession of Tom's oldest son, Henry Drake.

Registered No. 48410
E. D. Townsend
Assistant Adjutant General

THE UNITED STATES VOLUNTEER SERVICE

The President's Thanks and Certificate of Honorable Service.

To Private James A. Drake 46th Regt. Iowa Volz.

Whereas the President of the United States had made the following Executive Order, returning Thanks to the VOLUNTEERS FOR ONE HUNDRED DAYS, from the States of Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin, to wit:

Executive Mansion

Washington City, October 1, 1864.

The term of One Hundred Days, for which VOLUNTEERS from the States of Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin volunteered under the call of their respective Governors, in the months of May and June, to aid in the recent Campaign of General Sherman, having expired, the President directs an Official Acknowledgement to be made of their Patriotic Service. It was their good fortune to render efficient service in the Brilliant Operations in the Southwest, and to contribute to the Victories of the National Arms over the rebel forces in Georgia under command of Johnson and Hood. On all occasions, and in every service to which they were assigned, their duty as Patriotic VOLUNTEERS was performed with alacrity and courage, for which they are entitled to, and are hereby tendered, the NATIONAL THANKS through the Governors of their respective States.

The Secretary of War is directed to transmit a copy of this Order to the Governors of Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin, and to cause a CERTIFICATE OF THEIR HONORABLE SERVICE to be delivered to the Officers and Soldiers of the States above named, who recently served in the Military Force of the United States as Volunteers for One Hundred Days.

Abraham Lincoln

NOW, THEREFORE, THIS CERTIFICATE OF THANKS AND OF HONORABLE SERVICE is conferred on Private James M. Drake in token of his HAVING HONORABLY SERVED AS A VOLUNTEER FOR ONE HUNDRED DAYS in Co. Cly. 46th Regiment of Iowa Volz.

Given under my hand at the City of Washington, the Fifteenth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four.

Abraham Lincoln

President of the United States

By the President

Edward M. Stanton

Secretary of War

Not long after Jim's return from the Army he and several other men were sitting near a hay stack talking over war days and making some very uncomplimentary remarks about the Rebels, when Tom, who was on the other side of the hay stack, all ears, crawled to the top of the stack and called in a loud voice, "Hurrah for the Rebels". Naturally this displeased his father very much and catching Tom he gave him a tanning that taught him for all time not to cheer for the Rebels--at least not while he was in Pa's presence.

Since there was now much of the time when Jim was not feeling well, he found it easier to care for livestock than to do the heavier farming. Money was still very scarce but when they had saved up a few dollars Jim would invest it in land, then use the pasture for his stock. The days were past when his stock could roam at large as new neighbors were coming in constantly. Often these new neighbors could not pay the taxes on the land and it would then be reclaimed by the Government and sold for the taxes due upon it. This land was called "Tax Title Land" and Jim purchased several of these Tax Title tracts. Much of this land was later timber land but at the time it was purchased by Jim there were only scattered clumps of trees here and there. Land could still be purchased from the Government

for as little as \$1.25 per Acre, and Jim purchased several tracts for a very nominal fee. At least one tract so purchased is still owned by a member of the family.

These were difficult years for all the family as Jim was unable to do heavy work. Since Posey must be raised to be a gentleman, Tom was called upon more and more frequently to assist Pa with whatever work must be done. Often he was called from his bed long before daylight on a cold morning to perform some difficult and distasteful task while John was left slumbering in a warm bed. This suited Posey perfectly as he had already developed a distaste for work of any kind, and he was quite in accord with the idea that he should be a gentleman, especially since he could taunt Tom on the sly because Tom had to do the things that he always managed to evade. They raised their own cane from which molasses was made, and on at least one occasion Tom was awakened along the middle of the night and asked to assist Pa by driving the horse so that the cane stalks might be ground into pulp. Pa was sick and coughed so much he could not sleep and felt it best to be out doing something. Ma scolded him for getting a little boy up in the middle of the night, but Pa told her Tom could sleep after he was gone.

There was now a school about a mile from their home, that the boys attended, but the neighbors were all so poor they could pay a teacher for only a few months out of each year so the boys did not get to attend school as much as their parents wished.

Again Mollie found that she was pregnant and she especially did not want this baby since times were so hard and Jim was sick much of the time. She felt sure he could not live much longer. She hardly knew what she would do with four small children, but on April 23, 1866, a little girl was born to Jim and Mollie and they named her Minnie Montana. Possibly some of the Indians who had stopped at their store had been from the Montana tribe and they thought it a pretty name so gave the name Montana to their little daughter.

This little girl resembled her father as she had inherited his dark eyes and black hair, and though Mollie did not know just why this displeased her. It seemed to the mother as though all the hardships, worry, sorrow and trials of the last few years were in some way all wrapped up in this small girl, and she could never love this little daughter as she had loved the older sons. Now there were two babies to care for in addition to the two older boys, and Mollie must help Jim with the farm work all she possibly could.

Chapter VII

Days of Sorrow

Shortly after Minnie passed her first birthday Mollie received word that her parents were coming to Iowa to make her a visit. They had heard of Jim's illness and the new babies and they knew their oldest daughter must be having a very hard time so had determined to make the long, hard journey to see if they could be of any assistance to her. Also they were anxious to see their grandchildren.

Mollie was very happy to think that she would see her parents again as it seemed such a long time since she had left Pennsylvania as a happy bride, although it had only been a little more than 10 years. While they had been busy years there had been many times when Mollie was most unhappy and she had often wished that she could see her parents again. The worry and the hard work of the last 10 years had taken their toll and Mollie's hair was now almost entirely white, so she knew her parents would find her greatly changed when they first saw her.

Mollie's mother arrived first, coming by stagecoach from near Ottumwa, Iowa. She was there for some little time before her father arrived, as he wished to attend to some business along the way. What a happy reunion Mollie and her mother must have had, and how many things they must have found to talk about as Mollie learned of all the changes that had taken place in Pennsylvania, and heard all the latest news of her friends and relatives, and in turn told her mother about her life in Iowa.



Matilda Bell Hinds

The children immediately fell in love with their grandmother as she was sweet and patient with them. She could weave beautifully and decided she would make a woolen blanket for each of her grandchildren. It is not known whether or not the other grandchildren received their blankets, but Tom was given a beautiful white woolen blanket with the ends beautifully embroidered. It was still in service many, many years later and was used until it finally wore out.

This was a happy time for all of them and the shadow of Jim's illness was pushed into the background as they awaited the arrival of Mollie's father. He arrived one dreary day in late fall, thoroughly wet and chilled as he had rode a horse much of the distance. They saw he was very ill so put him to bed immediately and sent for the Doctor in Mt. Ayr. When the Doctor arrived he found there was very little he could do as Stephen had congestion of the lungs, from which he died just a few days after his arrival. Stephen Andrew Hinds died on October 31, 1867, at the age of 55 years.

He was laid to rest in a very new cemetery, called the Johnston Cemetery, which was located on a high hill about a mile from their home. Later a simple marble headstone was placed on his grave. Matilda had wished to take her husband's body back to Pennsylvania for burial, but before he died Stephen had asked Mollie not to let this happen.

This was a very sad time for the family and Mollie's mother must have been very sad and bewildered as she prepared to make the long journey back to Pennsylvania alone. This was the final parting for Mollie and her mother as they never saw one another again. Mollie's brother and sisters were still at home as none of them had yet married, but the brother married the following year. However, the sisters did not marry until later and some of them must have been considered quite "Old Maids".

Mollie was outside a great deal that winter, leaving the older children to care for the younger, as Jim was not at all well. She was never what was considered a good housekeeper, as there were so many more important things, in her estimation, that must be done. However, she must have been a very good nurse, and must have had her own method of sterilization as none of her children died in infancy, and neither she nor the children contracted tuberculosis from the father.

Early the next spring Jim heard of some livestock for sale in northern Missouri, so decided he would go look the stock over and see if it could be purchased. Mollie begged him not to go as she knew he should not be out in all kinds of weather, but he was determined to go and they quarreled bitterly. However he climbed on his horse and started for Missouri.

He bought the stock and was almost home with the horses, cattle and a few sheep, when a thunderstorm broke just about dark and this frightened some of the cattle so they would not stay together. He was only about 2 miles from home, but did not want to leave the stock as he did not know where they might be by morning, so stayed out in the cold rain trying to round them up and get them on home. He finally managed to get them home and in the pens around the barn, leaving only a few head of cattle to be rounded up later, but by the time he reached the house he was thoroughly wet and chilled and the next morning he was unable to leave his bed. From then on he grew steadily worse and on the 20th of April, 1868, realizing he did not have long to live, he made the following will disposing of his property:

Last Will and Testament of James A. Drake

Will of real and personal estate.

In the name of God, Amen:

I, James A. Drake of the Township of Liberty, in the County of Ringgold, and State of Iowa, of the age of 36 years and being of sound mind, do make, publish, and declare this my last will and testament in manner following, that is to say:

First, I will and bequeth to my wife Mary E. Drake, during her life but to be divided among the surviving heirs at her death, the Real Estate on which we now live it being the East half of the North East quarter of Section fourteen (14) Township Sixty-nine (69) N Range twenty-nine (29) W containing eighty acres more or less, with all the appertenances and privileges belonging thereto.

Second, I give and bequeath to my son John P. Drake the following real estate viz: The South East quarter of the South West quarter of Section twenty-five (25) Township Sixty-nine (69) N Range twenty-nine (29) W containing forty acres more or less together with all the appertenances and improvements belonging thereto. Also the North half of the North West quarter of the South West quarter of Section thirty-one (31) Township Sixty-nine (69) N Range twenty-eight (28) W containing twenty-two and one half ($22\frac{1}{2}$) acres, United States survey.

Third, I give and bequeath to my son Thomas A. Drake the following real estate viz: The North East quarter of the South West quarter and the North West quarter of the South East quarter of Section twenty-five (25) Township sixty-nine (69) N Range twenty-nine (29) W containing Eighty (80) acres, United States survey, together with all belonging thereto. I also give to Thomas A. Drake three acres of timber land located as follows: it being the North East corner of the North West quarter of the South West quarter of Section twenty-four (24) Township Sixty-nine (69) N Range twenty-nine (29) West.

I also will and bequeath to my son Willis E. Drake the farm known as the Cardwell place, it being the north west quarter of the North west quarter of Section twenty-four (24) Township Sixty nine (69) Range twenty-nine (29) containing forty acres more or less according to U. S. Survey, and also the tax title claim to the South half of the South west quarter of Section thirteen (13) Township sixty-nine (69) N Range twenty-nine (29) W containing eighty acres United States Survey. But if said tax title land should be redeemed at any time prior to said heir coming in possession of it then the money obtained for the redemption of it shall be put out at interest so that he can draw it with the interest accrued when he shall take possession of the farm of 40 acres.

I also will and bequeath to my Daughter Minnie Montana Drake the South West quarter of the North East quarter of Section thirteen (13) Township sixty-nine (69) N Range twenty-nine (29) W containing forty acres United States Survey. Also the South East quarter of the North West quarter of Section Twenty (20) Township Sixty-nine (69) N Range Twenty-eight (28) W containing forty acres more or less. I also order that the North West quarter of the North East quarter of Section thirteen (13) Township Sixty-nine (69) N Range twenty-nine (29) W containing forty acres more or less go with the farm on which we now live to be disposed of in the same manner and at the same time as the farm.

There is now 200 acres of tax title land as follows: The East half of the North East quarter of Section twelve (12) Township Sixty-nine (69) N Range twenty-nine (29) W and the East half of the South East quarter of Section twelve (12) Township Sixty-nine (69) N Range twenty-nine (29) W and the North East quarter of the North East quarter of Section thirteen (13) Township Sixty-nine (69) N Range Twenty-nine (29) W which I order shall remain as it is (unless redeemed by the proper owners) until my youngest boy shall arrive at the age of Sixteen when it shall be divided among the heirs or sell it as the heirs see fit as they will then have a 21 years possession title to it.

Each heir at the age of Sixteen shall have full possession of their property except to sell it, which they shall not do without the consent of the Executrix thereto until they are come to the age of twenty-one years.

Each one of the boys who shall remain on the farm and help farm it and take care of the stock until they are sixteen shall have of the stock on hand one horse, two cows, and ten head of sheep, but if any one of the boys leaves the farm before they arrive at the age of sixteen without sufficient cause, they shall only have their land and one horse.

And lastly I will and bequeath the rest of my personal estate to my said wife Mary E. Drake, whom I hereby appoint sole Executrix of this my last will, in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 20th day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight.

James A. Drake

The above instrument was at the date thereof signed and declared by the said James A. Drake as and for his last will and testament in the presence of us, who at his request and in his presence have subscribed our names as witnesses thereto.

J. T. Williams, Mt. Ayr, Iowa.

Andrew Johnston, Liberty Tp. Iowa.

State of Iowa)
Ringgold County)

I, J. T. Williams, County Judge in and for said county do hereby certify that the foregoing will of James A. Drake, Dec'd, late of said county, was on the 7th day of September A.D. 1868, duly proved and admitted to Probate. In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the seal of office this the 7th day of Sept. A.D. 1868.

J. T. Williams, Co. Judge

Seal

The neighbors were very kind and helped Mollie all they could. She now had a sick husband to care for in addition to the children and the outside chores which must be attended to each day. One night Mollie awakened the children and told them to get up as Pa wished to see them again and bid them goodbye, so leaving their beds they went down and saw their father alive for the last time. The next morning Mollie told her children that Pa was dead.

Jim died on May 24, 1868, at the age of 36 years, a victim of consumption, and the last of a family consisting of father, mother and 10 children-- all victims of consumption. They buried him beside Mollie's father in the Johnston Cemetery and later a simple marble headstone was placed on his grave. What a heartbroken, desolate mother and children must have returned to their home. John was just past 11, Tom not yet 10, Will just past 4, and Minnie a baby of 2. Will was only 4, but he can still remember his Pa's black hair and snapping black eyes.

Although Jim and Mollie had only been married about $12\frac{1}{2}$ years, and Jim had been sick a great deal, he and Mollie had been able to accumulate considerable land. In his will he disposes of $665\frac{1}{2}$ Acres of land, in separate tracts, in addition to considerable livestock.

Mollie, whose hair was now completely white, must henceforth be the head of the family and provide a living for her children. While she was very courageous there must have been many times when she wondered if she were equal to the task. John must still be raised as a gentleman, so must receive an education at all cost, but Tom was very sturdy and Pa had taught him to care for the stock and perform many of the chores about the farm, and he could already do much of the repair work that was necessary. Will could care for Minnie and they would get along.



Mary Ellen Hinds Drake

A New Husband and New Daughters

Ma spent most of her time outside that summer, looking after the stock and helping with the crops. She had always been a very good manager and now the stock and crops thrived and it was not long until she had money to loan her neighbors. In a few years practically every man in the neighborhood had borrowed money from her, but she was always careful to secure collateral and charged a good rate of interest. Although she had money that could have been invested in land, Mollie never purchased more acreage. Perhaps she felt the estate that Jim had left was all she could care for.

Corn bread was still a staple of their daily diet, although Ma always had wheat flour on hand to use in making biscuits when they had company. How the children did love those biscuits, but of course they had only what was left after the company had eaten. Their orchard had done well so they now had fruits of various kinds, but sugar was still very scarce and must be saved for company, so the fruits were preserved in molasses.

The children attended school whenever possible, but this was still only a few months during the winter. In the summer of 1870 Mollie received word that her sister Myra, who was then 29 years of age, had been married on June 17, to Henry Calvin McCarthy, a physician. Mollie had been thinking it would perhaps be well if she should remarry as her family of 3 boys and one little girl was quite a handful. True she had a family and her hair was completely white, but as some of the men had intimated, she still was attractive. Perhaps they were also attracted by her biscuits and the sugar that she kept for special occasions.



Jesse Crum Dicken

There was a young man living with the Brubakers, named Jesse Crum Dicken, who taught the neighborhood school. This young man seemed to think her ready-made family and white hair were no handicap and on April 13, 1871, she and Jesse were married, not quite 3 years after Jim's death. Jim had been 6 years older than Mollie, but Jesse was 8 years younger, he being 25 and she 33 when they were married. - He must have been a very brave young man to marry the fiery tempered Mollie with the white hair and family of 4 children.

Jesse Crum Dicken was born near Newark, Ohio, on July 25, 1846, a son of Mr. and Mrs. John B. Dicken. He was one of a family of 6 children as he had four brothers, namely Clarence, Charles, George D. and Amos, and one sister Allie. Little is known of his family or of his early life, except that he was a school teacher and also a singing teacher. He had a very good knowledge of music and continued to teach singing after his marriage. At the time of his marriage to Mollie he was a slender young man, of medium height with brown curly hair and brown eyes. After their marriage, Dicken, as Mollie and her children called him, left the Brubakers, moved in with the family and took over the farm work.

Slightly more than a year after their marriage, a little daughter was born to Dicken and Mollie on May 27, 1872, whom they named Laura, for Mollie's younger sister. This baby was very fair with blue eyes and curly hair that had a somewhat reddish tinge. Mollie still preferred to work outside, but a husband and growing family required that she spend more time in the house. Her children had always come in pairs, and this was no exception as another little daughter was born to Mollie and Dicken on January 7, 1874, when Laura, or Loll as they called her, was little more than 18 months of age. This little girl was also very fair with blue eyes and light curly hair. They named her Mary Lulu, but she was soon nicknamed "Lude", though why an innocent child should be given such an inappropriate name is not known.

It is thought that Tom was probably responsible for the nicknames that were given his brothers and sisters, as he was the only one in the family who did not have a nickname. Most of his children were later given nicknames and many of his grandchildren answered to names that were not given them by their parents.

Financially they were doing very well. John was attending school in Garden Grove, Iowa, where he was receiving a very good education. Although Ma had a large family to care for, she was not content to stay in the house. She was not satisfied with the care Dicken, who teaching experience had not taught him to be a farmer, and the boys gave the stock. Then too she felt that she must also oversee the planting and harvesting of the crops. Leaving the baby girls in the care of Will and Minnie, she would go outside and take over supervision of outdoor activities. The little girls would often cry and when everything else failed to hush their crying, Will and Minnie would tie a little sugar in a piece of cloth and give them this "sugar tit", as they called it. This practically always brought smiles instead of tears to the eyes of the little girls.

Tom was 16 the summer after "Lude" was born, and that summer he and Myron Johnson, a very good friend of his who was a little older than Tom, decided they would go to a place in the Rocky Mountains called Leadville. They had heard of the silver boom around Leadville and thought they could make their fortune hauling freight. They each had a team and wagon, so packing up a few provisions for themselves, and feed for their horses, they started westward. Ma hated to see them start out as she knew it would be a long hard trip, beset with danger for such young boys, but since they were determined to go there was little she could do about it.



Thomas A. Drake

They did their own cooking along the way and learned to make excellent biscuits, rolling them out on the bottom of the wagon seat. They had many exciting experiences, but upon arriving in Leadville found there was little hauling to be done, as other men had thought of the same thing and had arrived before them. They did find enough freight to haul to buy some feed for their horses and to restock their own larder, then decided to go on to Denver to see if they could find work there, but there was no freight to be hauled in Denver either, so after staying around for awhile they started back to Iowa. They had failed to make their fortune but they had many exciting experiences which Tom relived many times in telling them to his children and grandchildren.

Three or four years after Mollie's marriage to Dicken the neighbors decided the community needed a church. After discussing various locations for the church it was decided that the best place would be on some land owned by the Drake heirs. Mollie, as Executrix of the Estate, agreed to give two Acres out of one of the Tax Title tracts. This two Acres made a very beautiful site for a church as it was located on the top of a high hill about a mile from the family home. The church must have a name, and after a great deal of discussion it was decided that it should be called High Point, as the hill upon which it was built was about the highest point in the neighborhood.

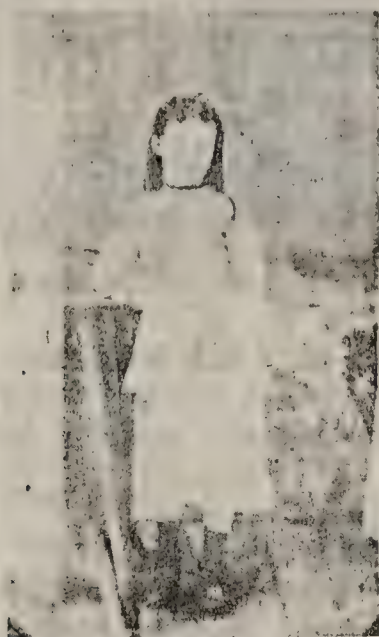
Tom helped haul rock from Grand River for the foundation, and others gave native lumber, and all helped with the erection of the building, so in due time the church was finished and the first services held. How proud they must all have been of their new church. The pews left much to be desired in the way of comfort as the back of the seats were just high enough to come slightly below the shoulder blades of an adult, and during a long service the sharp edge cutting into one's back would become very uncomfortable. This Church supplied the spiritual needs of the community, and was also the social center of the neighborhood for well over 50 years. Mollie, as Executrix of the Estate, later gave a deed for the two Acre site to the Methodist Church.

After the building was completed Dicken conducted weekly singing classes in the Church a portion of each year, and here the young people learned the

fundamentals of music which they would not have known otherwise. Many romances flourished during Church services over the years, and many sad funeral processions passed through the Church doors. At its alter many a soul was saved during the protracted or revival meetings held during the winter months, and many testimonies and prayers were given under it's roof.

Services were finally discontinued in the Church and as the old building was falling apart, in 1951 the Church was completely razed. Now all that remains of High Point Church is the memory and the building site. According to general belief, this site was to be returned to the Drake Heirs at anytime when it was not used for Church purposes, but now it is found that the deed which was given by Mollie to the Methodist Church, does not have that stipulation.

In his will, James A. Drake had wished his sons to stay on the farm until they reached the age of 16 years. Ma and Dicken were not getting along very well and home life was not too pleasant for the boys, so upon reaching the age of 16 they started looking around for other employment. John attended school in Garden Grove for a few years, then taught school in Tuskego, Iowa, for a time, but spent his vacations at the family home, which was now known as "Ma's Place". When he was at home he was always mistreating Minnie, whom he disliked, and Ma did not correct him as in her eyes this gentleman son could do no wrong, and to her the hapless Minnie was still the unwanted child.



Minnie Montana Drake

Tom did not get to attend school, but was more interested in farming anyway. His father had left him 80 Acres of land in his will, so Tom decided he would break up some of the sod and farm his own land. He also planted an orchard as he expected to make his home on the 80 at some future time. This 80 Acres is still owned by a member of the family. While working on this land he stayed with a family named Jesse Johnson, whose land adjoined his to the South. During his stay with them he was much impressed with the delicious corn bread made by Libby Johnson. The baby girls were growing up and Will and Minnie were in school much of the year. Will was a strong healthy boy and would soon be able to do a mans work. As finances permitted, Dicken purchased two or three tracts of land, so there was work to keep everyone busy.

By the time Tom was 20 he and his friend Myron Johnston, had acquired a threshing machine. This they used to thresh the neighbors grain for miles around.

One hot September day, Tom was busy threshing when he received word that his sister Minnie had died, after a short illness, supposedly from galloping or quick consumption, although the exact cause of her death has always been somewhat shrouded in mystery. Minnie Montana Drake died on September 10, 1878, at the age of 12 years. Thus ended the short, not always happy life of this unwanted child. She was buried in the Johnston Cemetery beside her father and grandfather, both of whom had died when she was just a baby. Later a simple marble headstone was placed on her grave. Many years later Tom and Will replaced the marble headstones on the graves of Stephen Hinds, James Drake and Minnie Drake, by one granite marker.



Minnie Montana Drake

Many, many years later, when Tom and Will were well past 80 years of age, they both spoke lovingly of their little sister Minnie, who had died so many years before, and both grieved because she had not reached adulthood and lived a normal span of years.

Not long after Minnie's death, another misfortune befell the family. Their house caught fire one day and burned to the ground. Most of their possessions were destroyed, although they were able to save a few things. Someone, while working from inside the house, had placed a large chair containing two feather pillows just outside the door. This chair had been Minnie's, and seeing it outside the door, Laura who was then about 7 or 8 years of age, decided it must be saved at all cost. She pulled and pushed the chair across the yard to safety with the sparks from the burning house flying all about her short red curls. She remembers the incident to this good day and can remember thinking "This chair and these pillows must not burn", as she dragged the chair a safe distance from the burning house.

Some food stored in the cellar was also saved as one brave man went into the cellar and hurriedly placed jars of food near the cellar door. These jars were then carried to safety by other men. Soon after the fire a somewhat larger house was built near the site of the old home, and here the family continued to live for several years.

Chapter IX

Life's Pattern Changes

The railroads had been pushing ever nearer Ringgold County, and in 1879 a line was extended from Bethany Junction, Missouri, to Mt. Ayr, Iowa. In 1881 a railroad was built through the northern part of the County. Still later a railroad running north and south was built through the western part of the County.

The railroads were an asset to townspeople and farmers alike as now provisions and merchandise did not have to be hauled from some distant point, and the farmers produce, grain and livestock could be loaded on the trains nearer home, instead of being delivered to some far away shipping point. The County had been divided into Townships some 10 years earlier, with roads laid out along the Section lines. School Districts had been formed and plans were made to build a small school house every two miles. Ringgold County was taking on the aspects of a settled community and was a frontier post no longer.

Even though Ringgold County now had railroads, there were still many peddlers passing through who carried their stock of merchandise in either a one or two horse cart or wagon. They soon learned that Mrs. Dicken would provide them with food and lodging for the night, and would also provide shelter and feed for their horse or team. It was not long before they all tried to reach her house for a night's lodging. Sometimes as many as two or three of these traveling merchants would spend the night at her house at one time.

Will did not like to have them around at all, but Ma always insisted that they should stay. In the morning when they would offer to pay for their lodging, she would at first refuse pay, then when they insisted, she would tell them that they could pay her with some of their merchandise. In this way she usually received more for their lodging than if she had accepted money. For many years she clothed her family with material received from the traveling merchants for a night's lodging, and in addition had stacks of linen table cloths and napkins, as well as many other articles, that she had received in the same manner.

In 1880 Mollie received word that her sister Laura Matilda (Loll) Hinds had been married on February 26, 1880 to Henry Haller Bates. She was not quite 28 at the time, but Mollie thought that she should have been married several years before. They soon moved to Manhattan, Kansas, where her husband engaged in farming. Later he was in business in Manhattan. It is thought that Laura visited with Mollie at least once, but it is not known just what year she was in Iowa.

The years were slipping past, but with their passing the home life of Dicken and Mollie did not improve. To Ma, who had been married first at 17 years, and who had experienced all the hardships of pioneer life, this young husband who was only 10 years older than John, seemed more like a boy who must be told how to do things. Since she was never one who could control her tongue, she showed no hesitation in telling him what to do and how to do it. Naturally Dicken resented this, and their quarrels were frequent.

John was a young man now and had been of marriageable age for several years, but the young ladies whom he met apparently held no attraction for him whatsoever.

Since he had been raised as a gentleman, perhaps none of the young ladies of the neighborhood were quite genteel enough, in his estimation, to be a fitting wife for one of such high station. As far as is known there was never a romance in Posey's life.



John Postlethwait Drake



Thomas Andrew Drake

With Tom, it was quite a different matter as he appeared to be attracted to many of the neighborhood girls, and Ma often wondered which one he would bring home as a bride. At the dances, singing schools and various social functions he would be the escort of first one young lady then another, but apparently none of them was quite his ideal.

Eli and Mary Landreth, with their large family, had moved to a farm about 2 miles from Ma's Place when Tom was about 16 years of age, and shortly thereafter he had helped with the excavation of a cellar for their house. While working there the youngest girl, who was about 8 at the time, and whom they called "Dode", had insisted upon riding on the empty wheelbarrow each time he had gone back after another load of dirt. Tom thought her rather cute at the time and as she grew older he still thought her cute. When she was old enough to start going with the young men he had been her escort. Dora was a very pretty girl of medium height, with blue eyes, brown hair and a beautiful complexion. When she was slightly less than 18, he proposed to her and she accepted.

Dode's older sister Mary Jane (Jennie) had married Frank Oliver, when Dora was still a young girl and they now had a family of 2 or 3 small children. This was the same Frank Oliver whom Mollie had helped to deliver some 25 years before. Dora's parents had two boys much younger than their other children and after their birth the mother had never been very well and much of the care of the family had been placed on Dode's shoulders. These boys were now 2 and 4 years of age and said many things to embarrass their older sister when her young man came to call.

Tom had purchased a tract of land in Monroe Township some 3 or 4 miles from Ma's Place a few years before this. Here he and Billie Ohm, a friend of his, had been batching in a one room house that was on the land. Billie too planned to be married, and just two weeks before the marriage of Tom and Dora, Billie and Mary (Mollie) Archibold were married. Those two couples and their children

always remained close friends. On February 12, 1884, Thomas A. Drake and Dora Caroline Landreth were married at the home of her parents. Billie and Mary Ohm stood up with them. This marriage was to last for slightly more than 58 years when it was terminated by Dora's death on May 12, 1942. The following notice appeared in the Mt. Ayr paper shortly after their marriage:

"United at the residence of the bride's father in Liberty Township, Ringgold County, Iowa, on February 14, 1884, Thos. A. Drake and Miss Dora C., youngest daughter of Eli Landreth, Esq., Rev. P. Andrews officiating. So Saint Valentine was remembered by two of our best young people. The groom, whom we have known for many years, is a stalwart, industrious young farmer, while the bride being a Landreth, is sufficient guarantee that Thomas made a right royal choice of a wife who will be a joy and help on life's uneven journey. May their union be a happy one."

The next day after their marriage Ma had the "Infair Dinner" for them. Mrs. Rebecca Mitchell and Mrs. Brubaker helped prepare the dinner and one can be sure there was plenty of white bread, biscuits, cake, pies, and all the other good things that were available. A few days after the marriage of Tom and Dora, Dicken and Ma, with Will and the two girls, moved to an 80 that Dicken had purchased. Tom had rented Ma's Place and he and Dode would live in the house on that land. The buildings on Dicken's 80 were located about half a mile from the buildings on Ma's Place.

Things were growing steadily worse between Dicken and Ma. He had not been feeling well for sometime and now coughed a great deal and thought that he too might have consumption. The move to his land only caused matters to become worse between them. In making the move to another home there were many things to be done and Ma was none too sympathetic when he did not feel able to do the heavy work. Their quarrels became more numerous and finally one day after a particularly violent quarrel, Dicken packed his things and moved out. For a time he stayed with Bill and Harriet Allen while attending to some of his affairs, but as his health was failing rapidly he soon went back to his old home near Newark, Ohio. Thus ended the stormy, troubled marriage of this miss-mated pair. With Dicken's leaving Mollie bid farewell to romance and thereafter devoted her time, energy and efforts wholly to her home and family.

The fall after Tom's marriage Ma received word that her mother, Matilda Elizabeth Bell Hinds, had passed away on October 28, 1884, at the age of 69 years. At the time of her death she was visiting her brother Thompson Bell in Lewistown, Pennsylvania. Just before her death she asked her brothers Thompson and William, who both had very good voices, to sing for her, which they did. She had a sweet gentle disposition and in the latter years of her life always wore a dainty lace cap. She was well loved by all the members of her family. She was buried in the Vira Presbyterian Cemetery, across the street from her brother Thompson's house.

Although Mollie had not seen her mother since the tragic death of her father on their visit to Iowa in 1867, she had corresponded regularly with her and the news of her death was indeed sad news. Another connecting link with the old life in Pennsylvania had been broken.

Following is a picture of the home of Thompson Bell where Matilda Hinds was visiting at the time of her death:



Dora was feeling lonesome one day the fall after they were married and decided that she would go out to the cornfield where Tom was husking corn. Not stopping to put on her shoes she walked out to the cornfield, and had only been there a few minutes when a rattlesnake struck her on the foot. Tom rushed her back to the house and sent for the Doctor and his mother. While awaiting the Doctor's arrival they tried every home remedy they could think of, including a copious amount of whiskey. Dode became quite drunk and throwing her leg around in the air, laughed gleefully at Tom who was sitting on a chair beside the bed, terribly worried. Strangely enough she suffered no ill effects from the snake bite--probably because she was pregnant.

On February 15, 1885, just a year and one day after their marriage, Tom and Dora became the parents of a little black haired son. They named the baby Willis Henry, for Tom's brother Willis and Dode's brother Henry Landreth. Henry was Ma's first grandchild and it was not long before she was called Granny, a name the older grandchildren called her for many years. Dode always called her "Granny Dicken". When Henry was about 2 weeks old, Tom and Dora moved to their farm in Monroe Township where Tom had lived before their marriage. This farm was to be their home for over 57 years. They added another room, which was used as a bedroom, and Bill, as Tom called his brother Willis, lived with them as he wished to farm the land left him by his father. This land was not far from Tom's farm.



Willis Edmond Drake

Chapter X

Origin of June Picnic

Ma and the two girls were now alone on the 80 Acres where they were living when Dicken left. Tom or Bill would often ride up to see how they were getting along, and would help with the work that Ma could not manage. However, Ma still liked to work outside and could care for stock as well as any man. She always managed to raise a good garden and could help with planting and harvesting the crops if necessary. She raised geese, turkeys and chickens, so they always had an abundance of eggs and poultry to eat. The feathers that she picked from the geese made wonderful pillows and feather beds. She had learned to handle bees and now kept a few hives of bees, so there was honey for the family's use. Wherever she lived she planted an orchard to furnish fresh fruit in season and apples to store for winter use. Ma could still manage to get along very well.

On March 23, 1836, a little girl was born to Tom and Dora when Henry was only slightly more than 13 months of age. Tom always said this child's name was Anna Belle, but Dode insisted it was just Annie. In a few years the child herself settled the matter by saying her name was Anna.

Ma was determined that her daughters should receive an education. Perhaps their father had expressed the wish that they should be educated as he had been a school teacher before his marriage. Although Mollie quarreled bitterly with her husbands while living with them, after they were gone she did try to carry out their wishes. As soon as Laura finished the country school she was sent to High School in Mt. Ayr for 2 years. Although Laura had red curly hair she always had a sweet patient disposition which somehow annoyed her mother. Laura was very studious and loved school so made the most of her opportunity to obtain an education. After her 2 years in High School she taught for awhile, then attended Simpson College for 2 years, then after that had 2 years of Preparatory or Teacher's Training at Simpson. She taught school for years before her marriage, and after her daughters were in school again taught school. In all she taught a total of 21 years or more.

In 1836 Ma heard that Dicken had died, a victim of consumption, on April 27, 1836, at the age of 40 years. He was with his family near Newark, Ohio, at the time of his death, and they buried him in a cemetery near Newark. Ma must again tell her children that their Pa was dead; this time it was the two girls, Loll age 14 and Lude age 12, who had lost their father. Not long after this, Ma and the two girls moved back to her place, and here she resided for many years.

Will was still living with Tom and Dora in their 2 room house, but the next year they added a two story addition to the front of their house, as they again expected another addition to their family. On November 28, 1837, a second son was born to Tom and Dora, whom they named Russell E. Drake. This made three children for them in a little less than 3 years. Russell was a big fat baby, but Dode was so very thin after his birth that her parents were afraid she might have consumption. Such was not the case however, as with care and rest from bearing babies she rapidly regained her health and in a year or so started to add the flesh, that later she tried so hard to lose.

Mollie's sister Clara (Clad) Hinds visited in Iowa shortly after Russell's birth. Since there had been so many babies for the parents to name in such a

short time, they could not think of a name to give this baby, and she suggested Russell E. Her brother, Will Hinds and his wife, had a son named Russell Eigar who had drowned on July 13, 1887, when he was not quite 15 years of age. Thus Russell E. Drake was named for the 15 year old Russell E. Hinds who had lost his life by drowning a few short months before.

For sometime Bill had been thinking it would be well for him to marry, but as Tom had done, he also was waiting for a little girl to grow up. Sometime before, Lewis Long and wife had settled at Blackmore Corner with a large family, many of them girls. One of the younger girls, Della Maude, was especially attractive and as she reached maturity her beauty increased. She was tall and slender, with sparkling eyes, dark hair and a beautiful fair complexion. On February 14, 1888, she was 16 years of age, and on March 8, 1888, she and Willis E. Drake were married. He was almost 24 at the time. This marriage was to last for slightly more than 62 years when it was terminated by Dell's death on March 28, 1950. Immediately after their marriage they moved to a farm that Will had acquired and here they lived for a number of years. Later he traded this farm for another nearer Mt. Ayr and this was home to them for many, many years.

When the three sons of Jim and Mollie reached manhood they were all tall, stalwart young men with dark hair, light complexion and blue eyes. John was the tallest of the three, although Tom would have been somewhat taller had he been less bow-legged. Will was always somewhat heavier than the others and his skin was so very light it caused him to have many skin cancers in his later years. They all three grew a mustache in early life and these they all wore as long as they lived. Tom and Will were excellent stockmen and farmers and both had beautiful horses as long as they farmed, and when they no longer farmed still continued to keep other stock. Tom liked to raise hogs, but Will detested hogs and liked sheep, while Tom would not have a sheep on the place. For many years John and Will each kept a stallion and John tried to raise stock of various kinds, but as with so many other things he was none too successful with this either.

John had tried to teach school, but had not been successful. He had also tried to do numerous other things, but none of his ventures had been successful. It seemed there was no place in life for a young man who had been raised as a gentleman when he had no special aptitudes or talents. He spent much time with Ma or Mother, as he and the girls now called Mollie most of the time, and they decided it would be well if he rented her land and did the farming. He tried farming for 2 or 3 years, but was so unsuccessful that he made nothing for himself or her either. Tom finally went over his books with him one day and John told them he would turn over everything to his mother and leave, which he did. He went to Kansas where he spent sometime with his Aunt Laura Bates.

One summer while Tom's children were still quite small, it rained the night before Ma's birthday. Since Tom could not work in the field the next day he and Dode decided to pack up their dinner, take it with them and surprise Ma by helping her celebrate her birthday. Ma was so pleased that they should remember her birthday, and they all had such a good time, they decided to tell Will and Dell about it the next year and they would all help her celebrate her birthday each year thereafter. Thus was born the June 23rd Family Picnic, which perhaps more than any other one thing has helped to create a feeling of family unity between the different generations and different families that are now present at the family picnics.

In 1839 Ma received word that her youngest sister, Clara Jane (Clad), had been married on April 4, 1839, to William Martin Laird, who was a merchant. Clad was almost 34 years of age at the time of her marriage, and to Mollie who had been married first at 17. It was almost a disgrace that Clad had waited until she was an old maid before marrying. The Lairs moved to Kansas soon after their marriage and a son, Ralph Raymond Laird, was born to them in 1890, and in 1892 they became the parents of a little girl, Mary Elizabeth Laird.

By the time Laura had finished her two years at Mt. Ayr High School, Lulu was ready to go, so Ma made arrangements to send her to High School. She went about one year, but detested High School, and finally declared she would rather spend the rest of her life at home pulling cows teets than to spend another day in that school. Thus ended her school days.



Laura and Mary Lulu Dicken

In many ways Lude was like her mother as she too preferred to work outside. Her disposition was such that the rest of the world was unaware if she was worried about things that were not going as they should. She had much courage and spirit, and perhaps was Ma's favorite child, although of course her first-born John, always had a special spot reserved in her heart. Lulu spent the years of her young womanhood at home and she and her mother were always the best of friends. True, Ma's temper and tongue would sometimes get the better of her and she would last out with some cutting remark, but Lude understood her mother and did not let her unkind words bother her.

In 1892, Tom and Dode presented Ma with a 4th grandchild; this time another little girl, born May 4, who was named Mary Bernice. Bernice was a beautiful child with light blue eyes and light brown curly hair, and they were so very proud of her. Their other children had been so close together the memory of their babyhood was more or less a bad nightmare, but this baby was something special and they proceeded to spoil her outrageously. The next year Will and Dell became the parents of a little son on April 5, 1893, whom they named James Vernon Drake. Vernon was a pretty little red-headed boy with blue eyes and since he was their first-born, of course was a wonderful child. Will and Dell had been married for slightly more than 5 years at time of Vernon's birth and had almost decided that they were not going to have children, so his arrival was a very welcome event.

There were now 5 grandchildren in the family and Christmas was an exciting time. Ma liked to have her children and grandchildren spend Christmas with her and it was an established custom for the children and grandchildren to spend Christmas with Granny Dicken. This custom continued until her death and there was seldom a Christmas all during the years that was not spent with Grandma. At first she insisted upon preparing the food for the whole family herself, but in later years each family contributed their share of the food.

In 1894, Ma received word that her sister Clara's husband, William Martin Laird, had passed away on February 2, 1894. Clad had not married until she was almost 34 years of age, and now after less than 5 years of marriage she was left a widow with 2 small children not yet 2 and 4 years of age to support and raise. Mollie's heart went out in sympathy to her sister as she knew from experience how hard it was to be left a widow with a family of small children. Clad could sew nicely, so by sewing and with what estate her husband left her, she raised two children of whom any mother might well be proud.

Chapter XI

California, Here We Come

A good many of Dode's relatives had migrated to California over the years, among them Frank and Jennie Oliver. They wrote back such glowing accounts of the wonders of that land, that Tom and Dora felt they would like to go there too. Tom and Bill talked it over a good many times, and Bill in turn talked about California to Abe Irvin, who had married Lucy Long, an older sister of Dell. Abe and Lucy also had 4 children, but times had been pretty good and they were all doing well so finally the three families decided they would rent their farms for a year and move to California to see the wonders of that land for themselves. Laura had been teaching school for several years and she decided that she would go with them as she felt that she too would like to see California.

Ma thought they were foolish to leave their homes and move their families out there, and said so, but once they had decided to go nothing would stop them. Before they left, Ma and her children and grandchildren all went to Mt. Ayr one day and had their pictures taken.



Reading left to right, back row: Laura Dicken, Lulu Dicken, Willis E. Drake, Della M. Drake, Vernon Drake, Dora C. Drake.

Second row: John P. Drake, Anna Drake, Mary E. Drake-Dicken, Henry Drake, Thomas A. Drake

Front row: Russell E. Drake, Mary Bernice Drake.

In March, 1895, they loaded their furniture and some live stock in box-cars, bought tickets from Benton for the adults and for those children who were old enough to require tickets, and started on their journey, three families with an assortment of nine children and one single young woman. Tom had engineered the buying of tickets, shipping the furniture, etc., and the station agent had promised him a pass to California, but when he went to get his pass, the only pass available was a pass for a minister. The station agent was somewhat dubious as to whether Tom could pass for a minister as he had been around and heard some of the talk while the boxcar was being loaded, but Tom told him to give him the pass and he would take the chance. Tom was challenged a time or so along the way, but always managed to bluff his way through and thus proceeded to California on a minister's pass.

In due time they arrived in Whittier, California, and all descended on Frank and Jennie Oliver, who were having a difficult time making a living for themselves and their brood of children. Here they stayed until housing could be found. After the long, cold Iowa winter, California in the spring looked like paradise to the weary travelers.

They all had a wonderful time in California. They would take overnight trips to the beaches where they would swim and fish in the daytime, then camp out on the beaches at night. Some of the men went deep sea fishing a time or so but as they had never been on a boat before they became very sea sick. The rolling of the waves was too much for land lubbers. There were many things to see and do in California, but they found that money was a very necessary item, and while the men tried to find work at various things, the work that they were trained to do commanded very small wages. Of course the women were busy caring for their homes and looking after their numerous children.

Laura tried her hand at various things also. First she tried to learn to be a dress maker, but soon decided she was not a natural born seamstress. Then she shelled peas for a time in a canning factory, and finally worked as a hired girl for one month. Although she just about made her living, she felt she was not too successful at any of these undertakings.

As the men could barely make a living for their families in California, Will and Abe Irvin decided they would make the trip back to Iowa by covered wagon. Laura and Dell, with Vernon, thought that they would like to return by covered wagon also, so that fall they all started out. By the time they reached Ogden, Utah, it was very cold and the women were tired, so Laura, Dell and Vernon, boarded a train at Ogden and returned to Iowa by railroad, while Bill and Abe finished the trip by covered wagon. Tom and Dora with their family, stayed in California a few months longer, then returned to Iowa by train later in the winter.

Loll and Lude had both been old enough to marry for several years and Ma was beginning to worry lest her daughters were going to follow in her sisters footsteps and she would have a couple of old maids on her hands. The girls were both very attractive and she thought at times they were each taking a husband and starting a family.

While the rest of the family was in California, Lulu had been keeping company with a young man named Poe Johnston, who was the son of Captain Andrew Johnston, a well-to-do stock breeder and farmer living something over a mile from Ma's Place. Ma was much in hopes they would marry and did all in her power to bring about such an event. Finally Lude told her that she and Poe

were to be married and Ma immediately planned a home wedding for them. Mary Lulu Dicken and Poe Johnston were married on January 14, 1896. This marriage lasted for over 50 years, when it was terminated by Lulu's death on January 28, 1947.

Ma was sorry that all her children could not be there to attend Lulu's wedding, but Tom and Dora with their family, had not yet returned from California. Laura and Dell had been home for sometime and Will drove in with his covered wagon not long before the wedding, so they were there and wished the youngest sister in the family every happiness. Tom and his family returned to Iowa a few weeks after Lulu's marriage.

John had now returned to Iowa and spent much of his time with Ma on her Place. He was a confirmed old bachelor, and doubted if he would ever marry. About this time he joined a Chapter of the Odd Fellow's Lodge that was located in Mt. Ayr. It was not long before he was very interested in the teachings and work of the Lodge, and thereafter devoted much of his time to Lodge work. He held practically every office in the Lodge at some time and attended many conventions and other meetings in other parts of the State. Since he did not care for Church work and had no family of his own, he gave the time and substance which otherwise would have been devoted to Church and family, to the Lodge.



Grandma and John in front of the house on Ma's Place

Ma was very glad to have all her family back in Iowa and life again resumed its busy routine. Peddlers still passed through the country with their stock of merchandise loaded on their wagons and she still let them spend the night in her

spare bedroom, always taking pay for their food and lodging in merchandise. She always raised a big garden, in addition to caring for the fruits of various kinds, a few hives of bees, and her chickens, geese, etc.

Lude and Poe were living with his father, but they were planning to build on some land that Poe's father had given them. This land was about one-half mile from his father's home and about 2 miles from Ma's Place. Except for a few years spent in Mt. Ayr this was to be their home for well over 45 years.

In the fall after their return from California, Will and Dell again became the parents of a little son on October 21, 1896. The baby, whom they named Cloyd L. Drake, was a handsome child with his mother's dark hair and eyes and they were very proud of him. On March 12, 1897, Lulu and Poe also presented Ma with a new grandson. This baby was named Andrew Dicken Johnston, but was always called Dee. He was born at the home of Poe's father as their new home was still unfinished.

Laura was still unmarried and this displeased Ma, who thought she should take more interest in the young men of the neighborhood and not give teaching and religion so much of her attention. Loll had joined High Point Church when about 8 years of age and to her religion was a very real and vital thing. It was something to which she could always turn for comfort and solace when things did not go right or when Ma had been especially unkind with her remarks.

She had been teaching for a good many years and since she could not become interested in marriage she decided she would like to be a missionary and teach in some foreign land. When she told Ma of her decision, Ma was not at all pleased and immediately thought of many reasons why Loll would not make a good missionary. When all her efforts failed to change Loll's mind she persuaded Tom to talk with her and to tell her that her health was such that she could never stand the hard life that a missionary must lead. Tom reluctantly agreed to talk with her and by their combined efforts they did change her mind, but Tom always regretted his part in the affair. He later felt that Laura's nature and disposition was such that she would have made a wonderful missionary and it would have been the life to which she was best suited.

On February 20, 1899, Tom and Dora again became the parents of a little girl; their 5th and last child. This baby had dark curly hair and dark eyes and was named Nellie Naomi Drake, but the family could never decide which name to call her so Dora called her Nellie; her sisters called her Naomi, and Tom and the boys called her Nellie, Nell or Johnnie, but as she grew older she learned when Tom called her Nellie it was time to obey. Tom and Dode were older now and had been in hopes this child would be something of a plaything, but they soon learned she was a rather prickly plaything, as her disposition and temper were rather uncertain.

On February 22, 1899, Lulu and Poe also became the parents of a little girl, whom they named Ruth Johnston. They were very happy as they now had both a son and daughter, but their happiness soon changed to sorrow as on March 8, 1899, Ruth passed away when only 2 weeks of age. She was buried in the Johnston Cemetery and later a small headstone was placed on her grave.

Chapter XII

Busy with Living

Mollie corresponded regularly with her sisters and brother in Kansas, and often expressed the wish that she might visit them. She did not want to make the trip alone, and with so many new babies in the family, her children were pretty well occupied. She wrote to her sister Myra occasionally, but as she was rather lax with her correspondence, Myra finally wrote a letter scolding her somewhat for not writing more often. This made Mollie angry and she wrote on the letter "This expresses my sentiments exactly", and returned the letter. The sisters did not correspond again for many years, though eventually there was a reconcillation in the later years of their life.

High Point Church had been an important factor in the community life for many years. Much of the social life of the community centered around the Church. Personnel for the young peoples parties were drawn from those who attended High Point Church. In the summer there were ice cream socials and in the winter there were oyster suppers, which the whole community attended. Primarily these were held to raise money for the preacher's salary, but they were also important social events.

While John was still a young man he had attended High Point Church and at one time was Secretary of the Sunday School, but later he drifted away from religious activities and seldom if ever attended Church. Ma's other children, with their families, attended Church services regularly, and did much to assist with the Church activities. When High Point Church was first built Ma transferred her membership from the Presbyterian Church to the new Church on the hill and for many years seldom missed a service. However, after Dicken left she ceased attending Church services. Perhaps his leaving hurt more than she cared to admit.

Laura was always interested in Church work and did more than any other member of the family to promote the work of High Point Church. She taught Sunday School classes, sang in the Choir, played the organ and did many of the other things that were necessary to keep a small Church going. Lulu also sang in the Choir while young, but after her marriage her growing family soon required all her time. After moving to their farm near Mt. Ayr, where they lived for so many years, Will and Dell attended Church in Mt. Ayr.

Tom never joined the Church but always attended Church Services and had an active interest in the welfare of the Church. Dora joined the Church while young and was instrumental in seeing that the other members of the family attended Church regularly and that they were there on time. Tom had a very good voice, and thanks to Dicken's efforts, also had a very good knowledge of music. He was Choir Director and sang in the Choir of High Point Methodist Church for many, many years.

After services on Sunday morning, Tom and Dode with their family, would often drive on over to Ma's Place, have dinner with her and spend the rest of the day visiting. Often they would be joined by other members of the family and they would all have a good time visiting. The children always liked to go to Grandma's as they were very fond of her, and Uncle John was also very good company.

In 1901, two more grandsons were added to the expanding group of grandchildren. A son, Forest Roe Johnston, was born to Lulu and Poe on February 5, 1901. Taking Nellie, who was not quite two, Dode went to care for the new baby and his mother. Lude's babies were bottle babies and as the Doctor did not know what food to prescribe for them they were always hungry and sick and cried much of the time. Forest was no exception, and while Dora was trying to keep him quiet, Nellie would cling to her skirt and cry too. On October 8, 1901, a third son was born to Will and Dell. This baby, whom they named Guy Raymond Drake, was a handsome little boy with the dark hair and eyes of his mother.

The telephone was a new invention that was rapidly being installed over the country. Ma and her children all thought it would be wonderful to stay in their own homes and yet be able to talk with each other whenever they desired. Tom was always interested in new things, so decided he would investigate the matter and see if a rural telephone system of some kind could not be installed. By spending much time and effort, and working with other men who were also interested in the project, the Kellerton Mutual Telephone Company was organized and he was elected the first President. A rural system, owned by the subscribers, was finally perfected and put into operation with a switch board in Kellerton. This system is still in operation and as yet it has not been absorbed by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company.

Tom's house was almost on the dividing line between the Mt. Ayr and Kellerton lines, so he decided he would have the Mt. Ayr line extended on to his house, then they could ring directly to either Mt. Ayr or Kellerton. By an ingenious little device called a "switch" one could talk on either line, or by connecting the switch to both lines at the same time, parties on one line could talk with their friends or relatives on the other line. This worked fine for a time, but it was not long before some member of the family must spend a great deal of time acting as a switch board operator—all for free. The parties talking were supposed to "ring off" when they had finished their conversation, but often they failed to do so. Eventually the line to Mt. Ayr was discontinued.

Laura was now keeping company with a young man named Thomas E. Williams, who was the son of a neighbor living about 2 or 3 miles from Ma's Place. Ma let no opportunity pass to extol the virtues of this young man. Loll was now well past 30 years of age and her mother could see no future for her unless she married, and married soon. To Ma, single blessedness in a woman was almost a disgrace, and while Loll supposed she should eventually marry, she was in no hurry. Laura and Tom went together for some time, but she would never start dressing until she saw him turn the corner, some half mile away, with his team and buggy. Ma thought she should spend more time and effort trying to capture this prize, so in order to make up for Loll's lack of enthusiasm she was especially nice to him and showered him with every courtesy.

Eventually Tom and Laura were engaged and the date set for the wedding. Ma planned a big home wedding for them and on the evening of April 23, 1904, Tom and Laura were married in Ma's parlor. Laura looked very sweet and lovely in a long, full white dress, and the whole family was very proud of her, and did hope that she would be happy. They immediately moved to a farm a few miles from Ma's Place where they lived the first few years of their married life.

On August 2, 1904, a fourth son was born to Will and Dell. This was a sweet little red haired boy, whom they named Warren Andrew Drake. He was soon

nicknamed Buddy, and Buddy he was to much of the family for many years. For several years Bernice and her school friend Beatrice (Bea) Irvin, who was the daughter of Dell's sister Lucy Irvin, spent a portion of each summer with Will and Dell. They always had a wonderful time and Will and Dell enjoyed having the girls visit with their flock of boys.

With new additions practically every year, the family was now quite large. With so many children in the family, Christmas was always a merry time and going to Grandma's for Christmas was something to which the family all looked forward. Helping Grandma celebrate her birthday in June was another event that the children anticipated with pleasure. By bringing all the members of the family together at least twice each year, a feeling of family unity and kinship was created that otherwise might have been lost. With so many different individuals and personalities, there were bound to be clashes, but in some way all differences were eventually ironed out. Perhaps a good tongue lashing by Ma helped to clear the atmosphere.

Not too long after the marriage of Tom and Laura a very unfortunate incident occurred. During the night their barn caught fire and burned to the ground. Much hay, feed, machinery, harness, etc., was burned, but the most tragic part of the fire was that several horses which were in the barn were burned to death. The fire had gained such headway before it was discovered that the horses could not be led to safety.

On February 23, 1905, a little daughter was born to Lulu and Poe, whom they named Delta Lavina Johnston. Delta was a pretty child with fair curly hair and blue eyes, but as with most of Lude's babies, her food did not agree with her and she was pitifully thin. On June 22, 1905, a little daughter was also born to Laura and Tom. They named the baby Lois E. Williams, and she was a beautiful plump baby with a round face and a head covered with dark ringlets. If she had been born just one day later she would have been born on her Grandmother Dicken's birthday.

Dora often assisted the doctor when a new baby was imminent, either in the family, or in the family of some neighbor. Many, many times she was called from her bed to assist at such a time. She did not like to see the young mothers suffer, but if she could be of any assistance felt that she should do what she could. If any member of the family was ill, she was often called upon to help in nursing them back to health.

Ma had wanted to visit her brother and sisters in Kansas for years, and had often suggested that some of her children make the trip with her. Tom's older children were now old enough to stay at home alone, care for the stock, do the chores, etc. Early in the summer Tom told Ma to make preparations and they would go to Kansas that summer. After discussing the trip a number of times and making elaborate preparations, Ma, Tom, Dora and their youngest daughter, Nellie Naomi, started for Kansas, going by train.

They first visited Mollie's sister Laura Bates and family in Manhattan, Kansas, a few days, then went on to Culver, Kansas, and visited with her widowed sister Clara Laird and her children for a day or so. Her brother, John Hinds and his family, lived on a farm not far from Culver, and a few days were spent with them too. One Sunday while visiting in or near Culver, they all went on a picnic on the banks of a small river near Culver, and everyone had a grand time. The sisters and brother had many things to talk over and they all enjoyed their visit. Mollie thought it was well worth the effort just to see her sisters and brother again.

Will and Dell had been quite impressed with California at the time they were there with the rest of the family. Now they wanted to return to California and take their children that they might enjoy the trip also. When Warren (Buddy) was just a little boy they decided that they would make the long-talked about trip, so made their preparations and departed for California by railroad. They rented an apartment and stayed in California for about three months, going to Catalina Island and visiting many other places of interest. The boys were well behaved and they all had a wonderful time. The trip was always remembered with pleasure.

On August 7, 1907, a third son was born to Poe and Lulu, and they named him Roy R. Johnston. The food agreed with Roy and he was a healthy, happy baby. Like their other children, he also had fair hair and blue eyes.

Henry, Tom's oldest son and Mollie's first grandchild, and Gertrude Burns were married on October 10, 1907. Gertie was a motherless child who had been raised in the home of Nancy Burns, a distant cousin of Dode's. A year or so before their marriage, Henry, or Hen as he was called, had bought a farm nearer Kellerton, about three and a half miles from Tom's farm. Henry, who was always a very quiet, serious young man, had been batching on this farm so it was not surprising that he should desire a wife. However, he and Gerite had been keeping company for some little time before his parents knew anything about it.

Nancy and Dode had always been good friends, and had often visited in each others home, but they had never given serious thought to the fact that their children might fall in love and be married. Nancy had a home wedding for Gertie, and the young people, who made a very handsome couple, started their life together with the best wishes of all the family. They have now lived on the farm that Henry purchased before their marriage for well over 44 years.

Chapter XIII

The Move to Mt. Ayr

John spent much of his time attending Lodge meetings in Mt. Ayr, and had often suggested that he and Mother buy a place in Mt. Ayr and move to town. Mother did not think she would like town life as she would still rather work outside than do housework any time. However, since that was what Posey wanted to do, and as it was always hard for her to refuse him anything, she finally consented.

They bought a two story house with considerable ground, just across the street from the school house. John had a large room upstairs, that he furnished very nicely, and there he spent much of his time. Mother bought new furniture for some of the other rooms, and they settled down to life in town. Posey was very happy here as he could now devote practically all his time attending to Lodge affairs.

There was a barn, with a chicken house, on their lot, so they kept a team, a cow, a pig or so, and some chickens with probably a few ducks and geese thrown in for good measure. John cared for the stock when he was home, but he was gone quite frequently and at such times Grandma must take over that work. There was also a large garden space on their lot and Grandma always raised a garden, so life in town was still a busy routine for her and did not leave much time for the detested house cleaning. Tom and Laura rented Ma's Place after John and Mother moved to Mt. Ayr and here they lived for a good many years.

On January 19, 1908, a little daughter was born to Will and Dell, whom they named Florence Ruth Drake. The whole family was very happy about her birth, as this was the first girl in a family of 4 boys. Their happiness was soon turned to sorrow though, as the little girl was always sick. They had a nurse with her most of the time and did everything possible to save her life, but on March 13, 1908, she passed away when not quite two months of age. She was buried in Rose Hill Cemetery in Mt. Ayr. The parents and brothers were heartbroken at her death and always remembered the little sister whose life had been so short.

Poe and Lulu had also been talking of moving to Mt. Ayr. The roller mill where stock feed, corn meal and flour were ground, was for sale and Poe and a friend of his named Roy Brubaker, thought that they would rather buy the mill and operate it, than stay on the farm. Not long after Posey and Mother moved to town, Poe and Roy bought the mill. Poe and Lulu bought a house across the street from Mother's, rented their farm, and moved to town with their family.

Bernice, Tom's second daughter, was ready for High School shortly after Posey and Grandma moved to Mt. Ayr, so they all decided it would be well for Bernice to stay with Grandma and attend High School. Bernice was quite a talented musician as she had taken piano lessons for years and also had a very good alto voice. She was a most attractive young woman, and Tom gave Grandma orders that there were to be no boy friends as long as she was in High School. This order Grandma carried out with the utmost diligence and if ever a young man dared show his face at her door he received such a cold reception that he never returned. Since Grandma did not like house work, Bernice did much of the cleaning, washing dishes, etc., during the 4 years she stayed with Grandma and attended High School.

The whole family spent Christmas of 1908 with Grandma and John in Mt. Ayr. On December 29th, 1908, a 4th son was born to Poe and Lulu, whom they named Harold H. Johnston. The food did not agree with this baby and he was sick and cried much of the time. Lude had a big family to care for now and was always weary from being up with a sick baby, yet she always had a smile and cheery greeting for anyone stopping by.

On April 18, 1909, a 5th son was born to Will and Dell. They had been so in hopes this baby would be a girl also, to somewhat replace the baby that had died the previous year, but such was not the case. However, he was most welcome, and since they had much more experience raising boys, in time decided it was all for the best. They named the new baby Floy W. Drake, and when he reached middle age he looked very much like a picture of his grandfather, James A. Drake, who had died so many years before. This was Will and Dell's last child. All 5 boys made tall, handsome young men; two had red hair, two had black hair, and Floy, the youngest, had brown hair.

On July 8, 1909, the first great-grandchild was born. On that date Henry and Gertie became the parents of a son, whom they named Loren Russell Drake. Mollie was now a great-grandmother, and although it had been over 53 years since she and Jim had left Pennsylvania, in many ways it did not seem that long. In looking back over the years she could see many changes that had taken place. Here she and John were living in a comfortable 2 story house in quite a large County Seat town, where there had been nothing but a few log cabins 53 years before. Electricity had replaced the candles and oil lamps of former years. A railroad passed just to the back of her house, and now some people even had cars which were traveling the roads she and Jim had traveled with an ox team. Truly the changes had been great. She was becoming more mellow with the years, and in looking back she could see where she had made many mistakes, so perhaps it was best not to dwell in the past too much.

Tom was a stanch Republican and had held various local offices in Monroe Township and in the School District. Now with the encouragement of his friends and family, he decided he would run for County Supervisor. There was even talk of the family moving to town should he be elected, but when the returns from the Election were in, Tom was not elected. He never again tried for a County office, although he continued to be a factor in the politics of Monroe Township.

Anna, Tom's oldest daughter, was married to Murland A. Dufty on August 24, 1909. They had a big home wedding, and she and Murland were joined in matrimony in front of the Bay Window in Tom's parlor. Cakes were baked and other food prepared several days in advance as there were many guests who attended the wedding. Murland had been a friend of Russell's and while they were growing up he and Anna had not always been on the best of terms, but upon reaching maturity they found their viewpoints harmonized. After the wedding they moved to a farm owned by Murland's father, where they resided for a few years, then bought a farm about one and a half miles from Anna's parents.

On February 24, 1910, Loll again presented Tom with a little daughter, whom they named Wilma Ruth Williams. Ruth did not look at all like her older sister Lois, as she was fairer and had much lighter hair. Ruth was born on Ma's Place and Dode was called upon to assist the Doctor at her birth. Lois was awakened, and the hired man brought her with him when he came after Dora and she was left for Tom to care for. She did not take kindly to this change as she was just a little girl and wanted her own home and bed. Tom tried

various tricks and stunts to keep her quiet and eventually got her to sleep.

Wills two oldest boys were now in High School, and since they must ride some 3 or 4 miles to school each morning, then return in the afternoon, Will and Dell decided it would be well if they moved to Mt. Ayr too. They bought a large house with some acreage, about 3 blocks from Mother and John and moved their family to town. Will still continued to operate the farm, so he was now the one who must ride back and forth. They soon found this was not a very satisfactory arrangement, so only stayed in town a year or so and then returned to the farm. Also they decided the farm was a much better place for their family of 5 boys.

On May 14, 1910, a second great-grandson was born, as on that date Murland and Anna became the parents of a little son, whom they named Leland Richard Dufty. Leland was a plump baby with blue eyes and a very bald head that eventually was covered with brown hair. The babies all loved Grandma Dicken and she would sit and rock them for hours.

The older grandchildren loved to comb her snowy white hair, which was never much more than shoulder length, and she would let them comb it just as long as they liked. Her hair was not heavy, though it was always somewhat curly. There were several large lumps on her head that she was never able to entirely cover with her hair.

Poe and Lude were having a hard time. Poe found his mill was not making as much money as he had expected, and there was much of the time when Lulu was not well. Her children were often sick, and with a cross baby to care for too, there was just more to be done than should be expected of any one woman. She often remarked that she had a place for everything and everything in a place. They also found it cost more to feed a growing family in town than on the farm, so things were none too happy for them. However Lude never complained and never told anyone her troubles.

Grandma was now 72 years of age. Although not a large woman she had always enjoyed good health, and was not too sympathetic toward those who were not strong and robust. Now the years were beginning to take their toll, and sometimes the Christmas Dinners or the Picnic on Grandma's Birthday, would be held in the home of some other member of the family, but she preferred to have the gatherings at her house. She still did not like that housework and often Loll or Lude, usually Laura since Lulu had so much sickness in her family, would go in a day or so before the big day and give her house a good cleaning. She had great stacks of plates which were used for the dinners. For many years the men ate first, then the women, and the children had what was left, but eventually that was changed after there were so many children it was impossible to keep them all quiet. Thereafter the meals were served cafeteria style.

In the summer of 1911, Mollie received word that her sister Laura's only living daughter, Ruth Haller Bates, had died on August 12, 1911, when she was slightly less than 20 years of age. Laura and her daughter had been very devoted to each other and after her death, the mother was heartbroken and never recovered from the shock of Ruth's untimely death. Laura lived only a few months after Ruth's death, as she also passed away on December 5, 1911, at the age of 59 years. The first of a family of 4 sisters and 1 brother to pass on.

For several years some of the more progressive men in the County had been purchasing automobiles. At first Tom and Bill, who both had beautiful driving teams, thought that automobiles were something they could easily get along

without, but after seeing more of these horseless carriages, they were beginning to change their minds. The auto dealers had been trying to sell both men cars and had taken both families riding on various occasions. There was one hill about a mile from Toms, which was especially steep, and whenever a dealer was demonstrating a car Tom would always have them take that road to see if the car could climb the steep hill. Many of the heavier cars could not make the steep grade so these were eliminated, but the Model T Ford would climb to the top of the hill.

After giving the matter considerable thought and a great deal of discussion, Tom decided he would buy a Ford Automobile. The Model T Ford which he purchased in 1911, had two seats, a top that could be raised or lowered with much difficulty, no front doors, and an adjustable windshield. There were carbide lights, but they were very unreliable as they were always going out when on a dark, lonely road at night. The seats were upholstered in real leather and although it was a very light weight car, Tom paid close to \$900.00 for it.

Tom was now well past 50 years of age and driving a car was an entirely new experience, but after a few lessons he felt he had the steering part under control. He had always been a good mechanic and had been able to do much of the repair work on the farm machinery, so now he determined to learn to repair his automobile also. This proved to be quite a task as he found an automobile engine was somewhat complicated. There was no starter on the car and often when it could not be cranked it must be pushed down the hill near his home, then if it did not start it must be pushed back up the hill and maybe it would go the second time it was pushed down the hill. Tom kept the first Ford for 4 years before trading it in on a new one, and eventually learned to do much of the repair work on his car, but the first few years were hectic.

Bill purchased a car soon after Tom purchased his Ford and his experience was much the same, although he had sons at home who soon learned to drive and help with the repair work--and also the pushing. In just a few years each head of the different families was the proud possessor of a car.

Lude and Poe had been besieged by trouble, sickness and worry since their move from the farm to Mt. Ayr, and as a fitting climax the grist mill caught fire one night and burned to the ground. This was a great loss to them and within a year or so after the fire they moved back to the farm. Lulu's oldest son, Dee Johnston, was now in High School so he stayed in Mt. Ayr and lived with Grandma and John until he finished High School. As Lude was Ma's favorite child, so her son Dee was Grandma's favorite grandchild. He helped her around the house, talked with her, told her his problems, and they were the best of pals.

On January 3, 1912, Tom's youngest son Russell E. Drake and Nora Bell Moon were married. Dode had the "Infair Dinner" for them the next day and many of the family attended. Russell had been in no hurry to marry as he found the life of a single young man most enjoyable and carefree. When he did decide to marry at the age of 24 years, he took as his bride an 18 years old girl. They lived with Tom and Dode a month or so, then moved to a farm that Russell had purchased about a mile from Tom's home.

On March 12, 1912, a 5th son was born to Poe and Lulu, whom they named Guy H. Johnston. This child was sick constantly the first few years of his life and for weeks he was not expected to live as he had one convulsion after another, but they did manage to pull him through.

Murland and Anna again became the parents of a son on September 12, 1912, whom they named Lyndon Herbert Dufty. This baby, Grandma's 3rd great-grandson, had fair hair and blue eyes.

Christmas of 1912 was spent with Tom and Laura, who were still living on Ma's Place. Most of the family was there to enjoy the big dinner and tree afterward. For Dode it was a very sad occasion as her parents, Eli and Mary Phillips Landreth, had both died in California along the middle of December, just three days apart. At her father's wish they had been buried in the same grave.

The following January, Mollie was saddened to learn that her youngest sister Clara Jane Laird, had passed away on January 26, 1913, when little more than 57 years of age. Clara, or Clad, was less than six months old at the time of Mollie's marriage, so they were never too well acquainted, but she had visited in Mollie's home and Mollie had visited with her on her trip to Kansas, and they had corresponded regularly.

On March 13, 1913, Russell and Nora became the parents of a little daughter, whom they named Helene Hortense Drake. She was a tiny little mite and cried a great deal during her first year. She was always a dainty little girl, and she and Grandma Dicken became very good friends.

Bernice, Tom's second daughter, had graduated from High School in 1912, and had taught a country school for about a year, but on May 21, 1913, she and Morris O. Gray were married. Grandma had been able to faithfully carry out Tom's order of no boy friends until the last few months before Bernice graduated, then this young man was so persistent that she had finally given in. Perhaps she secretly thought it was time Bernice had a boy friend, or she too might be an old maid. Bernice had a home wedding and was married in front of the Bay Window in Tom's home. After their marriage they moved to a farm about a mile from Ma's Place.

On June 13, 1913, Henry and Gertie became the parents of a second son. The new baby, whom they named Albert Lee Drake, had dark hair and eyes and looked much like his father. This made four additions to Tom's expanding family in less than a year, and at the family gatherings there were babies everywhere.

Chapter XIV

The Declining Years

In 1914, Mollie received word that her only brother, John William Hinds, had died on April 1, 1914. John and his wife, Emma Wilson Hinds, moved to Kansas not long after their marriage November 26, 1868. They had been the parents of 8 children, but only 3 of them lived to reach maturity, as the others had died in infancy, or while still quite young. One son, Russell Edgar Hinds, was drowned in 1887 while 15 years of age.

With her brother John's passing, there were now only 2 sisters left of the family of 5 children; Mollie and her sister Myra who lived in Pennsylvania. Mollie and Myra had not corresponded for years, but after their brother John's death they resumed correspondence although it is not known who wrote the first letter of reconciliation. The sisters had not seen each other since Mollie's marriage to Jim when she was 17 and Myra was 14.

For several years Mollie had been wanting some of the children to take her to Kansas on another visit. Since so many of them had cars she felt it would be a simple matter to travel to Kansas in an automobile. True, the roads would be unpaved much of the way, but she wanted desperately to see her Kansas relatives again. Her brother's passing only increased her desire to make the trip, so that fall Tom and Laura decided they would take her to Kansas in their new car. It was a most uncomfortable trip as the weather turned cold and of course there was no heat in the car, but they finally reached their destination, visited with the remaining relatives a few days, and returned to Iowa without mishap. While there they visited John's grave and Mollie received some degree of comfort from this, even though she had not been able to make the trip while John was alive.

On December 12, 1914, a 3rd son was born to Murland and Anna, whom they named Bernard Ivan Dufty. They had been so in hopes this baby would be a little girl; however he was a very sweet baby with light curly hair, blue eyes, and a winning disposition and they loved him dearly.

Grandma's eyesight was failing, and at times she did not feel so well and it would have been more comfortable to have stayed in bed. However, she had her home and John to care for and must be up and about. This son, whom she and Jim had decided must be raised as a gentleman, was still the gentleman and must be cared for as such. There must have been times when she regretted the decision made so long ago, yet she never complained or criticized John. Her washing machine, that she had never liked, was now worn out and John did not get her another, so she did their washing on a board and those white shirts for Posey must be washed and ironed just so. She still used a dash churn for making butter and this was very slow work, especially in the summer, as she never kept ice and oftentimes the cream was too warm to make butter easily. Even with poor eyesight she was still able to make delicious vinegar pie.

She used a coal or wood range for cooking, and now that she could not see so well, her dishes, pots, pans, etc., were not washed as clean as they should have been. Still Posey seemed satisfied and did nothing to assist with the housework. Before the family gatherings, Laura must now see that the dishes,

silverware, etc., were washed and ready for use. There were still times when Grandma did not control her tongue and often her criticizing remarks, always aimed at the female members of the family, would penetrate deeply.

Will's oldest son, Vernon Drake and May Warrick were united in marriage on May 18, 1915. They had graduated from Mt. Ayr High School as class mates, and it was while attending school that they had fallen in love. They both attended Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa, for some time, then decided that marriage was more important to them than an education. They had a home wedding and the next evening Dell had a party for them in her home. They soon moved to a farm not far from Will and Dell, where they lived for several years.

On September 28, 1915, Poe and Lulu again became the parents of a son, whom they named Ivan Poe Johnston. Ivan was a nice big baby with fair hair and blue eyes, and as his food agreed with him he was a much better baby than his older brothers and sister had been. This was Lude's last baby. She now had six sons and one daughter living. This was also Grandma's last, and 19th living grandchild. There was a great predominance of male grandchildren, as of the 19 grandchildren, 13 were boys and 6 were girls. Also there were now 5 great-grandsons and one great-granddaughter.

For many years there had been a lump or knot on Grandma's forehead, in addition to those on her head that were partially covered by her hair. The lump on her forehead was now bothering her some of the time and the Doctors were afraid it might become malignant and suggested that it be removed. An operation was still something to be avoided just as long as possible, and Grandma had no intention of letting a Doctor operate and remove that lump. Someone in the family had heard of a hospital in Savannah, Missouri, where they removed malignant growths by applying an ointment. This ointment caused the growth to separate from the healthy tissue, when it could then be removed without an operation. Grandma decided that was where she would go, so she spent a short time in Savannah, had the lump removed, and it caused her no more trouble.

She was always very fair and for years there had been small places on her face covered with a scab or scale. These bothered her at times but they never made skin cancers. Grandma had always enjoyed reading, but her eye sight was now so bad she could not even read the newspaper. Laura gave her a magnifying glass with a handle attached, and this enabled her to read for short periods at a time.

On February 4, 1917, a little daughter was born to Vernon and May, whom they named Florence Drake, in memory of Vernon's little sister. This was the first grandchild for Will and Dell and everyone was very happy over the birth of the little girl with the curly red hair.

During the years when Chautauqua was popular, Mt. Ayr also had its Chautauqua Circuit during the summer when various speakers, musicians, etc., furnished cultural entertainment for those who attended. The hotel facilities in Mt. Ayr were very limited and often rooms could not be obtained by those entertainers who must spend the night in the County Seat town. John was uptown one night during the Chautauqua season when he heard that one of the speakers could not secure lodging in the hotel. He immediately suggested that the speaker go home with him and spend the night in his mother's spare bedroom, and the speaker gladly accepted. The next morning Grandma prepared breakfast for the distinguished guest and in a few years she was very proud that she had given the man lodging as he was none other than Warren G. Harding, who later was elected President of the United States.

War clouds had been threatening for several years, and now the United States was at war and troops were being sent to Europe. The thought of war was always with the family as with so many young men of military age it was inevitable that some should be called into service. Dell worried constantly as her children were all boys and she knew if the war lasted for several years two or three of her boys would be in the front lines. Cloyd Drake, the second son of Will and Dell, was called into service and took his basic training at Ft. Des Moines, Iowa. While he was stationed there various members of the family drove up to see him, but he had little time off for visiting. After his basic training he was sent to a camp in Georgia where he remained for the duration of the war, being with the Medical Corps at the time of the great influenza epidemic.

During these war days Grandma's thought must often have turned back to those other war days when she and Jim were young. Then as now, so many other young men were fighting and dying for their country. She had been a young woman with 3 little boys, yet Jim had felt it his duty to volunteer, even though he had not been at all well at the time, and she had been left alone to care for the family, and take over all of the responsibility of running the farm.

Grandma had never been completely satisfied with her life in town and had always wanted to move back to the farm, but Posey would never consent to moving back with her. While Dee was staying with her attending High School, they had often talked of moving back to her farm; he would do the farming and she would keep house for him. Now Dee, her favorite grandson, was through High School and ready to make his own way. She decided this was her opportunity to make the move that she had wanted to make for so long.

John stayed in town, but she moved back to her old home with Dee in the spring of 1917. However, she soon found that things were not as they had used to be. Her eyesight was so very bad that she could not get out and work around the garden and stock as she had done before moving to town. Then too, it was lonely as it was not as convenient for the family to drop in to see her as it had been in town. Besides she missed John. She was very fond of Dee and they got along well together, but she still felt a responsibility for John and felt that she should be there caring for him. That fall she moved back to Mt. Ayr where she spent the rest of her life.

On October 12, 1917, Murland and Anna became the parents of a little daughter, whom they named Verba Dora Dufty. They were very happy that this baby was a little girl as they now had 3 sons and a daughter. Verba, with fair hair and blue eyes, was their 4th and last child.

On January 18, 1918, Andrew Dicken (Dee) Johnston, and Della Croy were united in marriage. They immediately moved into the house on Ma's Place, where they lived the first years of their marriage. Here a little son was born to them on November 2, 1918, whom they named Wayne Andrew Johnston. This was the first grandchild for Poe and Lulu.

On November 11, 1918, the Armistice was signed and World War I was over. It was the cause of much rejoicing in the family, as well as elsewhere. Cloyd Drake returned home with his Honorable Discharge soon thereafter, and life resumed its customary routine. Since practically all members of the family were Republicans, little love was felt for President Woodrow Wilson and he was often the subject of much discussion.

On November 27, 1918, a second daughter was born to Vernon and May, whom they named Bessie Cleo Drake. This little girl only lived for two days as she passed away on November 29, 1918, and was buried in Rose Hill Cemetery in Mt. Ayr.

Will's second son, Cloyd Drake and Amelia Dolecheck, were united in marriage on January 22, 1919. They had been sweethearts before Cloyd was called into service and now that he was safely home again, decided to be married. They stayed with Will and Dell for a short time, then purchased a farm in Liberty Township, some 3 or 4 miles from Ma's Place, and here they lived for a number of years.

For a good many years, Tom Williams, Laura's husband, had been dissatisfied with life in Iowa and had wanted to move his family elsewhere. At first he had planned to move to Colorado and the family had all gathered for a farewell family dinner, then he changed his mind and decided they would move to Wisconsin. Laura had always been very fond of her family and disliked the thought of moving from them, but in April 1919, the Tom Williams family moved to a farm in Wisconsin. They were missed greatly as this was the first member of the family to leave Ringgold County, and it was a break in the family circle. It was soon realized that Laura, with her slow, quiet ways, had exerted more influence in the family than had been suspected.

Grandma now found that her eyesight was slightly improved and it was not long before she could read some without the magnifying glass. This was a wonderful blessing as it enabled her to get around with much more ease than before. Her eyesight continued to improve and soon she could see about as well as ever. There were times now when she did not feel so well, and even a few times when she must remain in bed. However, she was very active and enjoyed remarkably good health for a woman 81 years of age. She had lost her teeth early in life and had worn false teeth for years, but by now she was so accustomed to them they caused her no trouble.

On November 24, 1919, another little daughter was born to Vernon and May, whom they named Helen Drake. Helen was a very pretty baby with dark hair and fair complexion, and was soon a chubby little girl.

Early in 1920 Mollie received the sad news that her last remaining sister, Sarah Elmira McCarthy, had passed away on January 24, 1920. Myra had been a widow since 1897. Her husband had been a physician and they had raised a family of 3 sons and 1 daughter. Although Mollie had often wished that she could see Myra again, they had not seen each other since Mollie's marriage to Jim over 64 years before. The last link with the life in Pennsylvania was broken.

In the spring of 1920, Murland and Anna Dufty, with their four children, moved to a ranch of something over 900 Acres, that they had purchased in Wyoming. There had been much sickness in their family and they thought the change of altitude and climate might be beneficial. Also they thought that they would like life on the open range. That same spring, Tom's youngest daughter, Nellie Naomi, left for Des Moines, where she attended Business College. The family was rapidly leaving Ringgold County.

That summer various members of the family decided that they would take a trip. Dell had a sister, Carrie Fender, who had tuberculosis, and with her family had moved to Colorado Springs for her health. With the Duftys in Wyoming and the Fenders in Colorado Springs, Bill and Tom talked things over and decided it would make a fine trip for the two families to go to Colorado and Wyoming that fall.

They both had Ford cars, so after a lot of planning they started to pack the necessary items that they must take on the trip. They planned to camp out and do their cooking along the way, so food, cooking utensils, a few dishes, bedding, etc., must be packed. Since the Ford cars of those days had no rear trunks, the camping equipment, as well as the spare tire and luggage, must in some way be packed in and on the car, and still leave room for the passengers. A wide board was bolted across the running board from the rear to the back fender on the left side of the car, and it was quite surprising how many articles that space held. As the driver could not get in and out of the car over that wide board, he must always get in and out on the right side of the car. That made it necessary for the other passenger riding in the front seat to always get out first and in last.

Finally the appointed day for starting on the journey arrived. Bill and Dell, with their two youngest sons Warren and Floy, and all their camping equipment were in one Ford, while Tom and Dode with their youngest daughter Nellie, and all their equipment, were in the other Ford. There were miles and miles of unpaved roads to be traveled and road maps were almost unknown. The cars must always stay close together for if they were separated there would be no way of finding each other again. As the roads were very dusty the car in the back must always take the dust, but someone in the front car must always watch to see that the car in the back made the necessary turn. Also the car in front must be the one who found the right road as there were very few road markers of any kind.

If there was tire trouble along the way the tires were repaired on the spot, and if car trouble developed the men usually found the trouble and repaired that too. Nights were spent along the highway, usually near a school house, and cooking was done on a small oil stove. One evening while camped near a school house, Tom was eating supper when he heard a noise at his feet and looking down he discovered a small rattlesnake coiled up between his feet. Tom jumped so high and so fast the snake did not strike him, but the women spent that night sleeping in the cars as best they could.

By asking directions at filling stations and continuing in a westerly direction, the tired, dusty and dirty caravan finally reached Colorado Springs where a few enjoyable days were spent with Dell's sister Carrie and her family. To the young people of the party, who had never before seen mountains, those few days were crammed with new experiences. All too soon the caravan started on its way to Wyoming. The men were having trouble with their Fords in the high altitude and they soon found the carburetor must be adjusted in order to keep the engine from becoming hot. Again they camped along the way, spending one night with Murland's sister Myrtle Dady and her family in Loveland, Colorado. Myrtle had tuberculosis and had moved to Colorado, hoping the higher altitude would benefit her health.

After going through Cheyenne and Goshen Hole, Wyoming, they finally arrived at Murland's ranch, which was some little distance from Torrington, Wyoming. Here they were met by Anna's brothers Henry and Russell, and their families, and a family reunion was held on the plains of Wyoming. Three meals a day must now be prepared for 20 people. Several days were spent sight seeing, and one day the party all went fishing in a lake that was being drained. There were so many fish in the shallow water that they could be picked up with the bare hands, and the family all enjoyed several fish dinners.

Henry and Russell and their families went on to Estes Park, but Tom and Bill with their families soon started on their return trip to Iowa. After losing the way several times, running into roads that were being graded for paving, and due to a rain storm, spending one night in an empty school house along with a million ants, the caravan finally reached their homes again in Iowa. In spite of all the dirt, dust, bad roads, inconvenience, and possible danger, it had been a very enjoyable trip.

On December 25, 1920, Will's third son, G. Raymond Drake and Lela Stephens were united in marriage. Raymond was only a little past 19 at the time of his marriage, but with his father's help, he purchased a farm across the road from his brother Cloyd, and there the young couple moved soon after their marriage. As the date for their wedding, they had chosen Christmas Day, the same date Mollie and Jim had chosen for their wedding date 65 years before.

On January 31, 1921, a little daughter was born to Cloyd and Amelia, whom they named Lila Drake. On August 22, 1921, the first son was born to Vernon and May. This baby was named Glen Drake. Will and Dell now had 3 living granddaughters and one grandson in slightly more than four and one half years. Their family was expanding rapidly as during that time they had also acquired two additional daughters-in-law.

Will Hinds, the only son of Mollie's brother John Hinds, remained a bachelor for many years and lived alone on his farm near Culver, Kansas. In 1919 he married a young widow named Elsie Riley West, who was the mother of two small daughters, and his new family moved to the farm with him. In 1920, Elsie and Will became the parents of a little daughter, whom they named Bernice Emma Hinds. Will had been much in hopes the new baby would be a boy and his disappointment was great when another daughter was added to the household. However he was soon devoted to the small Bernice.

In the summer of 1921, Will, who was very proud of his young wife and daughter, decided he would bring them to Iowa in order that they might visit with his Iowa relatives. Elsie was a very sweet young woman and the family learned to think highly of her during their short visit in Iowa. Bernice had been born when her father was past 50 years of age and he was very fond of the little girl, although there were times when caring for her proved irksome. Grandma enjoyed visiting with her nephew and his family, although they stayed with her for only a short time.

Chapter XV

Life's Journey Ends

Grandma was now past 83 years of age, but she was very active. She still cared for her home and did the cooking for herself and John, as well as caring for a few chickens that she kept in her back yard. Being able to read again was a great comfort to her.

Along the middle of November she took a severe cold that rapidly became worse. A doctor was called, but feared the worst as he found she had bronchial pneumonia. Word was sent to Laura in Wisconsin and as soon as she received the message that her mother was ill, she immediately left her home and family and came to help care for her mother.

Grandma had no appetite and appeared tired and worn out. The staunch old soul who had experienced all the hardships of pioneer life, who had been so brave in the face of adversity, sorrow and trouble, and had carried the burdens of others for so many years, was now ready to rest.

Grandma passed away on November 28, 1921, in her home in Mt. Ayr. Funeral services were held from High Point Church with her grandsons serving as pall bearers. She was laid to rest beside the father, husband and child who had died so many years before. The following obituary appeared in the Mt. Ayr paper:

Mrs. Mary E. Dicken

Mary E. Hinds was born in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, June 23, 1838. She was married to J. A. Drake December 25, 1855. A short time after their marriage they came to Iowa, landing in Ringgold County the spring of 1856, and entering the 160 acres of land known as the Blackmore Farm. To Mr. and Mrs. Drake there were born 3 sons and one daughter; John P. Drake, Thos. A. Drake, and Willis E., all living in Ringgold County. The daughter Minnie M., died at the age of 14 years.

Mr. Drake died May 24, 1868, and April 1871, she married Jesse C. Dicken. This union was blessed with 2 daughters, Mrs. Laura Williams of Plainfield, Wisconsin and Mrs. Lulu Johnston, wife of Poe Johnston, living near High Point.

Mr. Dicken died May 27, 1886, and for the past 13 years Mrs. Dicken has made her home in Mt. Ayr with her son John P. Mrs. Dicken united with the Presbyterian Church when a girl and when she came to Iowa she united with the M. E. Church. Her membership still remained with the High Point Church.

Mrs. Dicken departed this life November 28, 1921, aged 83 years, 5 months and 5 days, leaving to mourn her death 3 sons and 2 daughters, 19 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. She was the last of her family.

The funeral service was held at High Point Church December 1st, conducted by Miss Nichols of Ellston, assisted by T. S. Rhodes of Mt. Ayr. Her body was laid to rest in the Johnston Cemetery. All of the children were present.

Thus ended the long, stormy, adventurous, exciting, sometimes sorrowful, but always interesting life of a courageous woman. Her sharp tongue had fought and won many battles where brute strength would have failed. Although possessed of a fiery temper, her command of the English language had been such that she had never felt it necessary to use either vulgar or profane language. She was but human and her mistakes were many, but she raised her family to honorable and respected manhood and womanhood and through her influence the members of the family had always felt a close relationship.

Her influence has continued to be felt down the years through the June Picnics that are held each year on the Sunday nearest the 23rd of June--Grandma's Birthday.

Grandma's hands and tongue are quiet now
As she lies beneath the snow;
The slender shoulders will no longer
The burdens of others bear.
Babies down the years will not know
The comfort of her arms and rocking chair.
Life somehow is not the same
Without her tongue to sear and blame.
May she at last in peace abide
In that land where she will now reside.

Chapter XVI

Epilogue

John Postlethwait Drake remained in the home in Mt. Ayr for a year or so after his mother's death, then the house was sold and he moved to the Odd Fellow's Home in Mason City, Iowa. He never married and perhaps that was one reason he was never able to find the position in life to which he was best suited. Apparently his mother was the only member of the family who really understood him and after her death little was left for him except the Lodge work to which he had devoted a major portion of his life. He spent the remainder of his days in the Odd Fellow's Home among those of his fellow lodge brothers who had also devoted their lives to the work and teachings of the Odd Fellow's Lodge.



John P. Drake

John Posey spent a summer or so visiting his family and old friends in Ringgold County, and he also visited his sister Laura in Wisconsin, but the Odd Fellow's Home was his home. He died there after a lengthy illness of cancer of the liver, on February 7, 1935, at the age of 78 years, 2 months and 4 days. The body was returned to Mt. Ayr where funeral services were held in the Rhoades Funeral Home. He was buried in the Johnston Cemetery beside those of his family who had already passed on.

Thomas Andrew Drake and his wife Dora Landreth Drake, continued to live on their farm in Monroe Township. This farm had been home to them since the first year after their marriage. On February 14, 1934, they had the privilege of celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary at their home with their family and friends about them. The following picture was taken shortly before their Anniversary:



Thomas A. Drake and Dora Landreth Drake

Mrs. Laura Williams, prepared and presented the following paper on their Anniversary:

"Fifty years ago, on February 14, 1884, a memorable date in the minds of at least two of this company, namely Thomas A. Drake and Dora Caroline Drake, for it was at that time that wedding bells were ringing out their chimes in these two young hearts and minds. And here again today, those chimes peal forth as clear and true though mellowed with the sands of time.

And fifty years seems but as yesterday, though tis half a century. It reminds us well, no matter what we may be doing, time never standeth still. So we, some of us a new and younger generation, are here today to celebrate their wedding anniversary. Weddings spell "home" and home spells the mightiest institution of this nation and all nations. And of this young couple, now 50 years more young, who started out to build time and we too can say "They have builded well". And as Max Martin said of his and our Bell ancestors, you young Drakes can say of yours, "I am glad the same red and white corpuscles that beat through their veins are pulsing through our hearts".

And remember Birds of a Feather
Through depression and fair weather,
If you don't stand on one foot
More than half the time
You'll waddle through
If you do but quack true.

But say, wedding bells spell other than home. They spell cake and fine clothes. I almost forgot. Let's take a squint at the bride and groom. Young Thomas sets forth to claim his bride driving a team and buggy and attired in a stiff hat,

black suit, shoes and cravat. And Dora (why did they ever nickname her Dode?) was becomingly attired in a dress of light brown. Her hat was a broad rimmed white, edged in white fur with two large plumes to match.

During the course of the next fifteen years two drakes and three ducks came to make their home with this fine couple. Henry, who at one time when tired of play, was heard to ask the hired man if he had ever heard of a hen drake, Russell who ran away with the moon, Bernice turned gray, Naomi became a miller, and Anna became the maker of the famous brand of Dufty cheese."

Tom and Dode enjoyed traveling and for many years took a trip somewhere almost every year. Their oldest daughter, Anna and her family, lived in Wyoming for several years and while she was living there they visited with her on numerous occasions, making the trip in their car. Their youngest daughter, Nellie Naomi, was in California for two years and while she was there they spent one winter with her. Later she married and moved to Texas, and they visited with her in Texas at several different times. They also visited in Wisconsin with Tom's sister Laura and her family a number of times.

While visiting in Corpus Christi, Texas, during the winter of 1938-39, Dora suffered a slight stroke a few days after arriving, from which she only partially recovered. Up until that time she had been able to care for her home and lead a busy, happy life with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren about her. Now she could no longer care for her home and must keep help. This distressed her greatly and caused her much unhappiness. During the next few years she was quite ill at several different times, but always recovered enough to be up and about. In her later years there were many great-grandchildren about her and these were her special delight. She never tired watching them at play.

Tom was very ill during the entire month of March 1942, and the Doctor held very little hope for his recovery. It was never known just what caused his illness, but one morning he awakened perfectly rational, and made a very satisfactory recovery, although he could never remember anything that had happened during the month he was ill. For many years he was quite deaf due to an ear infection suffered in childhood, and this proved very inconvenient at times. He also suffered from shingles and these caused him much discomfort.

One Sunday early in May 1942, Dora suffered a series of strokes from which she never recovered and passed away at her home on May 12, 1942, at the age of 76 years, 5 months and 26 days. Funeral services were conducted from the High Point Church with interment in the Johnston Cemetery. Her grandsons, Loren and Albert Drake, Leland and Bernard Dufty, grandson-in-law Robert Beck and nephew Frank Landreth, served as pallbearers.

Thus ended the long, busy life of a good woman who had devoted many years to her family, friends and neighbors.

Tom and Dora celebrated their 58th Wedding Anniversary the February before Dora's death, and now after so many years together, Tom was left alone. His daughter Bernice and her husband, Morris Gray, moved into the old home with him, but with Ma gone life was not the same and there were many times when he was most lonely and sad. He had been bothered with skin cancers for years and several on his hands and face had been treated with radium. However, there

was one place on his left temple that radium did not cure and now it must be removed by a surgeons knife. Even after the operation it bothered him a great deal.

He was not well much of the time and finally early in December 1944, he was confined to his bed with a respiratory congestion, and from then on he gradually grew worse until his death on March 4, 1945, at the age of 86 years, 6 months and 11 days. Funeral services were conducted from High Point Church and he was buried beside Dora in the Johnston Cemetery.

Although his body grew weaker with each passing day, his mind remained keen and alert and he retained his sense of humor until the last.

* * * * *

Willis Edmond Drake and his wife, Della Long Drake, continued to live on their farm a few miles from Mt. Ayr, and here they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on March 8, 1938, with their family and friends about them.

On July 15, 1938, their daughter-in-law Lela, wife of their son Raymond, died in childbirth while in a hospital in Iowa City, Iowa. Raymond was left with a family of 4 children to care for. He carried on as best he could but felt that his family needed a mother. On May 15, 1940, he and Georgia Saltzman Conant, a distant cousin of Lela's, were married. Georgia was a widow with 2 children and this second marriage for both of them proved very happy. However, their happiness lasted only a few years as Raymond died on July 30, 1946, while in a hospital in Iowa City, Iowa. While in the hospital his suffering had been intense and after his death it was found he had an abscess on the brain. Raymond died at the age of 44 years, 9 months and 22 days.

On March 8, 1943, Will and Dell were privileged to celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary, again with their family about them. The following notice appeared in the Mt. Ayr paper soon thereafter:

"Mr. and Mrs. Will Drake observed the sixtieth anniversary of their marriage March 8, at their home in Liberty Township, in which they have resided for 50 years.

A co-operative dinner was served at the noon hour to approximately fifty relatives. The table, from which the dinner was served, was attractively decorated with a center bouquet of yellow jonquils, with candles and gold streamers. The beautiful wedding cake, cut by the "bride", was served to each one present.

At 11:30 o'clock, over station KSIB, Creston, recognition of Mr. and Mrs. Drake on the occasion of their anniversary was made with a dedication of the song, "The Church in the Valley", as requested by Elmer Schlapia, of Mt. Ayr. Neighbors and friends called at the Drake home during the day to extend best wishes and congratulations, and the honored couple received many lovely cards, flowers and letters.

Born in Ringgold County, Mr. and Mrs. Drake have spent their entire lives near Mount Ayr."

The following picture of Will and Dell was taken shortly before their Sixtieth Wedding Anniversary:



Della Long Drake and Willis E. Drake

For many years Will had suffered from skin cancers and had been to Savannah, Missouri a number of times to have numerous cancers removed from his hands, neck and face. Once again he went to Savannah, but this time they told him they could do nothing more for him. Will returned home thinking there was no cure for him, but his sons persuaded him to see a Doctor in Des Moines, who treated his cancers a number of times and they have caused him no further trouble.

Della Maude Long Drake, had been a beautiful young woman and this beauty she maintained throughout her life. She was always a vigorous, healthy woman with apparently unlimited energy, and was never known to rest except at night. In the winter of 1949-50 she found that she was not feeling so well, and upon being examined by a doctor, it was discovered that she was suffering from cancer that was so far advanced nothing could be done for her. The Doctor and her family never told her the cause of her illness. On March 8th, 1950, Will and Della observed their 62nd Wedding Anniversary, but this was a very quiet observance, as Della was now very ill. She still refused to lie down unless absolutely necessary and

spent much of the time sitting in her chair. On March 28, 1950, death claimed this sturdy woman and relieved her from pain and suffering. She died at the age of 79 years, 1 month and 14 days. Funeral services were held from the Methodist Church in Mt. Ayr, and she was buried in the Rose Hill Cemetery.

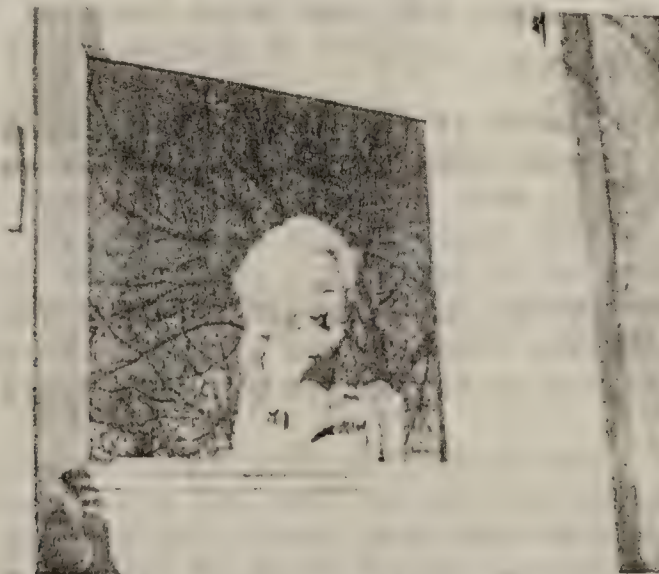
Tom and Will had both married girls much younger than themselves, but Tom had been left alone and now Will too was left to travel the rest of life's journey alone after more than 62 years of marriage. While he finds life very lonely without "Mama's" companionship, he does not wish to live with his children so continues to live alone on the farm that has been his home for so many years. He does not see so well so finds it very difficult to read, but does enjoy his radio and maintains an interest in current events. He continues to keep some stock and a flock of chickens. He always raises a good garden and when spring comes this year (1952) he will probably plant more fruit trees as he has done for many many years.

* * * * *

Laura Dicken Williams and her husband, Thomas E. Williams, are still living on a farm in Wisconsin. When they first moved to Wisconsin there was no Church in their neighborhood, but soon after moving there Laura helped to organize a Sunday School and Sunday School classes were held each Sunday in the neighborhood school, with Laura teaching one of the classes.

After her daughters were both in school she again taught school for several years, going to the school house from her home, even on the coldest days, and the winters are very cold in Wisconsin. Here their daughters grew to young womanhood and married, and the youngest daughter, Ruth Williams Lord, has the distinction of having the largest family in the clan, as she is the mother of 12 living children.

In 1946, Laura suffered a very severe illness and lay in a coma for some little time. At first it was thought she had suffered a stroke, but later her trouble was diagnosed as arthritis, although there still seems to be some doubt as to the exact cause of her illness. She has never fully recovered from this attack and suffers from pain constantly. It has left her very stooped and she must now use a cane when walking. However, she is able to care for her home, with Tom's assistance, even though her activities are greatly curtailed.



Laura Dicken Williams

Laura's hair, which was once tinged with red, is now snowy white, but it is still quite curly. Although life has not been easy for her and the burden of the years have taken their toll, Loll still retains her christian spirit and courage, and still has a quiet, patient, sweet disposition. She loves to visit her family and old friends in Iowa and in the summer of 1951, had the privilege of visiting with her brother Will and other relatives in Ringgold County, where she is always a welcome visitor.

Tom and Laura have not yet celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary, but they have been married almost 48 years and it is sincerely hoped that they too will be able to round out their 50 years of married life.



Thomas E. and Laura Dicken Williams

Laura's knowledge of Grandma's life has contributed much to the story of "Grandma and Her Family". She has been most generous with her information and many of the pictures used were furnished by her. Her help is deeply appreciated and thanks are again extended to her for the many questions that she answered, and the help and encouragement that she so generously gave.

* * * * *

Mary Lulu Dicken Johnston and her husband, Poe Johnston, returned to their farm in Liberty Township, soon after their mill in Mt. Ayr was destroyed by fire, and here Lulu spent the remaining years of her life. They raised a family of 6 sons and 1 daughter, and life was never easy for them. Poe was a tall man and all their children were above average in height.

In her younger years Lude had a sick baby to care for much of the time and there were many times when she was not at all well herself. She trained her boys to do the house work and some of them developed into very good cooks. One of them learned to make as good light bread as anyone could wish. Her health did not improve with the years and finally one kidney had to be removed by the surgeons knife. Yet through all her trouble, sickness and worry, she was always able to retain her courage and sense of humor, and a cheery greeting and appropriate remark was always waiting for anyone who dropped by to see her.

Lulu was always a slender woman with very curly hair. This she kept bobbed in later years and her curls were the envy of all the younger women in the family. The health of both Lude and Poe grew worse with the declining years. Poe eventually suffered a stroke from which he never fully recovered. On January 14, 1946, they celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary, with their family about them,

thus becoming the third of Grandma's children to have that privilege. The following year, soon after celebrating their 51st Anniversary, Lulu became very sick and was taken to a hospital in Creston where it was found necessary to operate. She never rallied from the operation and died on January 28, 1947, at the age of 73 years and 21 days. Funeral services were held from the Rhodes Funeral Home in Mt. Ayr and she was buried in the Johnston Cemetery beside the little daughter who had died so many years before. The following picture was taken on December 25, 1946, about a month before Lulu's death:



Poe and Lulu Dicken Johnston

Thus ended a life that had not been easy, yet her courageous spirit and sense of humor had helped to lighten the load of others with whom she came in contact.

After Lulu's death Poe made his home with his oldest son Dee and his family. Although it was lonely for him, Dee, who had 4 sons, lived in a small town, and Poe enjoyed visiting with the men who called at Dee's place of business, and in time he became adjusted to the new life. He was visiting his daughter Delta and her husband, Roland Nichols, for a few days, when upon arising one morning they found him dead in bed. Poe died on August 4, 1949, at the age of 80 years, 10 months and 14 days. He was buried in the Johnston Cemetery beside his life companion.

* * * * *

The descendants of Mary Ellen Hinds Drake-Dicken now number well over 100, and can be found living in many states west of the Mississippi River. As of March 1952, her children and their families are listed below as follows:

John Postlethwait Drake (never married) B. Dec. 3, 1856, D. Feb. 7, 1935.

Family of

Thomas Andrew Drake, B. Aug. 21, 1858, D. Mar. 4, 1945, M. Feb. 14, 1884,
Dora Caroline Landreth, B. Nov. 16, 1865, D. May 12, 1942.

1. Willis Henry Drake, B. Feb. 15, 1885, M. Oct. 16, 1907
Gertrude Burns, B. Sept. 15, 1887.
 - A. Loren Russell Drake, B. July 8, 1909, M. Aug. 15, 1929.
Velma Hailey, B. Nov. 1, 1910.
 - i. Juanita Drake, B. Aug. 10, 1930, M. Sept. 23, 1950,
Donald Clouse, B.
 - a. Stephen LaVern Clouse, B. Sept. 21, 1951.
 - ii. Harold Wayne Drake, B. Mar. 23, 1934.
 - iii. Lloyd Raymond Drake, B. Nov. 5, 1935.
 - iv. Thomas Andrew Drake, 2nd, B. Dec. 21, 1948.
 - B. Albert Lee Drake, B. June 13, 1913, M. June 24, 1933,
Alberta Hall, B. Nov. 8, 1913.
 - i. Dennis Lee Drake, B. Aug. 29, 1938.
 - ii. Carolyn Louise Drake, B. Nov. 3, 1942.
 2. Anna Drake, B. Mar 23, 1886, M. Aug. 24, 1909.
Murland Arthur Dufty, B. Apr. 17, 1887.
 - A. Leland Richard Dufty, B. May 14, 1910, M. Apr. 23, 1932.
Mary Walker, B. Mar. 19, 1911.
 - i. Sallie Lee Dufty, B. Sept. 2, 1933.
 - ii. Andrew William Dufty, B. Apr. 18, 1942.
 - B. Lyndon Herbert Dufty, B. Sept. 7, 1912, M. June 22, 1933,
Rose Mary Frisby, B. Aug. 16, 1915.
 - i. Shanda Sue Dufty, B. July 4, 1935.
 - C. Bernard Ivan Dufty, B. Dec. 12, 1914, M. Sept. 13, 1935,
Marguerite Vance, B. July 13, 1916.
 - i. Peggy Jane Dufty, B. Oct. 18, 1937.
 - ii. Allen Andrew Dufty, B. Mar. 4, 1940.
 - iii. Nancy Kay Dufty, B. Apr. 30, 1947.
 - D. Verba Dora Dufty, B. Oct. 12, 1917, M. Sept. 21, 1935.
Robert Beck, B. May 12, 1915.
 - i. David Michael Beck, B. Aug. 14, 1937.
 - ii. Judith Ann Beck, B. Oct. 13, 1940.
 - iii. Daniel Dufty Beck, B. May 20, 1945.
 3. Russell Eli Drake, B. Nov. 28, 1887, M. Jan. 3, 1912,
Nora Bell Moon, B. May 23, 1893.
 - A. Helene Hortense Drake, B. Mar. 13, 1913, M. Nov. 5, 1938,
Wendell Pahre, B. Aug. 25, 1913.
 - i. Richard Neil Pahre, B. Oct. 30, 1940.
 - ii. Jeffrey Drake Pahre, B. June 21, 1945.

iii. John Barry Pahre, B. Oct. 15, 1950.

4. Mary Bernice Drake, B. May 4, 1892, M. May 21, 1913,
Morris Oliver Gray, B. Apr. 22, 1891.

No issue.

5. Nellie Naomi Drake, B. Feb. 20, 1899, M. Nov. 23, 1924,
Cyrus Carroll Miller, B. May 24, 1899.

- A. Thomas Oliver Miller, B. Feb. 8, 1927, M. May 14, 1949,
Thelma Arlene Schendel, B. Apr. 8, 1927.

i. Wayne Ralph Miller, B. Jan. 15, 1950.

ii. Nancy Ellen Miller, B. Feb. 24, 1952.

B. Carolyn Dale Miller, B. Apr. 20, 1930, D. July 7, 1930.

Family of

Willis Edmond Drake, B. Apr. 10, 1864, M. Mar. 8, 1888,
Della Maude Long, B. Feb. 14, 1872, D. Mar. 28, 1950.

1. James Vernon Drake, B. Apr. 5, 1893, M. May 18, 1915,
May Warrick, B. Jan. 29, 1894.

- A. Florence Drake, B. Feb. 4, 1917, M. June 13, 1936,
Rex Foltz, B. Mar. 28, 1914

- B. Bessie Cleo Drake, B. Nov. 27, 1918, D. Nov. 29, 1918.

- C. Helen Drake, B. Nov. 24, 1919, M. Sept. 5, 1939,
Wayland Young, B. Oct. 5, 1920.

i. Ellen Kathleen Young, B. Jan. 21, 1943.

ii. David Wayland Young, B. Dec. 14, 1944.

iii. James Edwin Young, B. Aug. 27, 1946.

- D. Glen Drake, B. Aug. 22, 1921, M. Oct. 7, 1941,
Marjorie Hamilton, B. Jan. 14, 1922.

i. Michael Glen Drake, B. Sept. 4, 1943.

ii. Connie Sue Drake, B. Nov. 30, 1946.

- E. Rose Drake, B. Dec. 8, 1931

- F. Richard Drake, B. Dec. 29, 1937

2. Cloyd L. Drake, B. Oct. 21, 1896, M. Jan. 22, 1919,
Amelia Delecheck, B. May 7, 1898.

- A. Lila Drake, B. Jan. 31, 1921, M. Apr. 12, 1941,
John Elman Bonebrake, B. Nov. 19, 1918.

i. Donald Wayne Bonebrake, B. Oct. 1, 1944.

ii. Sue Ellen Bonebrake, B. Feb. 23, 1949.

B. Evelyn Drake, B. Aug. 13, 1927, M. Jan. 22, 1949,

John Joseph Stanley, B. July 1, 1926.

i. Karen Annette, B. Apr. 20, 1950.

3. Guy Raymond Drake, B. Oct. 8, 1901, D. July 30, 1946, M. Dec. 25, 1920,
Lela Stephens, B. Jan. 9, 1900, D. July 15, 1938.

A. Raymond Drake, Jr., B. Aug. 23, 1922, M. Mar. 5, 1941,
Mary Lou Shaffer, B. Jan. 28, 1927.

i. Stephen Dean Drake, B. June 22, 1942.

ii. Philip Arthur Drake, B. Aug. 31, 1947.

B. Maxine Drake, B. Feb. 23, 1927, M. Dec. 24, 1948,
Theron Barnett, B. July 1, 1925.

C. Margaret Drake, B. Sept. 15, 1928, M. Dec. 9, 1950,
David M. Cockrum, B. Mar. 29, 1917.

i. David Ronald Cockrum, B. Nov. 15, 1951.

D. Robert Drake, B. Sept. 18, 1930, M. Sept. 16, 1950,
Perry Ann Beasley, B. Sept. 12, 1932.

i. Caprice Annette Drake, B. July 8, 1951.

Guy Raymond Drake, M. (2) May 15, 1940,
Georgia Saltzman Conant, B. July 16, 1902.

E. Jerold Lee Drake, B. June 12, 1941.

4. Warren Andrew Drake, B. Aug. 2, 1904, M. Apr. 10, 1925,
Mary Ferber, B. July 13, 1903.

A. Linden Drake, B. Mar. 9, 1926, M. Mar. 17, 1952,
Donella Middleton, B.

B. Lyle Drake, B. May 5, 1929.

C. Paul Drake, B. May 14, 1933.

D. Merle Edward Drake, B. Aug. 22, 1937 (twin)

E. Mildred Annabel Drake, B. Aug. 22, 1937 (twin)

5. Florence Ruth Drake, B. Jan. 19, 1908, D. Mar. 13, 1908.

6. Floy W. Drake, B. Apr. 18, 1909, M. Jan. 1, 1931,
Maude McKee, B. June 25, 1911.

A. Alice Kay Drake, B. Apr. 22, 1937.

B. Lois Ann Drake, B. Jan. 4, 1939.

Minnie Montana Drake, B. Apr. 23, 1866, D. Sept. 10, 1878.

Family of

Laura Dicken, B. May 27, 1872, M. Apr. 23, 1904.
 Thomas Erastus Williams, B. Jan. 5, 1877.

1. Lois E. Williams, B. June 22, 1905, M. Aug. 25, 1927,
 Lloyd James Conover, B. Apr. 26, 1902.

A. Robert Lloyd Conover, B. Nov. 17, 1930.

B. William James Conover, B. Apr. 14, 1936.

2. Wilma Ruth Williams, B. Feb. 24, 1910, M. May 10, 1932,
 Delbert Lord, B. May 14, 1905.

A. Anna Laura Lord, B. Mar. 12, 1933, M. Feb. 16, 1952,
 Herman Gilbert Bertelrud, B.

B. Thomas Garfield Lord, B. Feb. 26, 1934.

C. James Orin Lord, B. Apr. 28, 1935.

D. Donna Ruth Lord, B. Apr. 6, 1936.

E. Doris Marie Lord, B. Dec. 4, 1937.

F. Joe Ernie Lord, B. Oct. 7, 1939.

G. Glen Dee Lord, B. Feb. 1, 1942.

H. Rosalée Lord, B. May 8, 1943.

I. Delbert Lord, Jr. B. Oct. 17, 1944.

J. William John Lord, B. Mar. 26, 1946.

K. Mary Ellen Lord, B. Oct. 3, 1947.

L. Roy Allen Lord, B. Jan. 13, 1949.

Family of

Mary Lulu Dicken, B. Jan. 7, 1874, D. Jan. 28, 1947, M. Jan. 14, 1896,
 Poe Johnston, B. Sept. 20, 1868, D. Aug. 4, 1949.

1. Andrew Dicken Johnston, B. Mar. 12, 1897, M. Jan. 18, 1918,
 Della Beatrice Croy, B. Nov. 9, 1898.

A. Wayne Andrew Johnston, B. Nov. 2, 1918, M. July 8, 1941,
 Virginia Callahan, B. Jan. 20, 1919.

i. Patricia Rose Johnston, B. Nov. 12, 1946.

B. Paul Albert Johnston, B. Apr. 2, 1921, M. Dec. 24, 1940,
 Adrianna Frame, B. Sept. 12, 1922.

i. Carroll Ann Johnston, B. July 26, 1941.

Paul Albert Johnston, M. (2) Apr. 1, 1946,
 Jerry Devoe, B. Mar. 31, 1926.

C. Floyd Johnston, B. Oct. 19, 1928, M. Dec. 11, 1949,
 Donna Jean Reeves, B. Apr. 9, 1931.

i. Donald Allen Johnston, B. Feb. 25, 1951.

- D. Norman Lee Johnston, B. Oct. 10, 1934.
2. Ruth Johnston, B. Feb. 22, 1899, D. Mar. 9, 1899.
 3. Forest Roe Johnston, B. Feb. 5, 1901, M. Feb. 12, 1949.
Susie Pearson, B. Oct. 21, 1900.
 4. Delta Lavina Johnston, B. Feb. 23, 1905, M.
Roland Nichols, B. Oct. 19, 1895.
- A. Vera May Nichols, B. May 13, 1924, M. July 15, 1944,
Glee Duncan, B. Nov. 7, 1924.
- i. Connie Jo Duncan, B. Mar. 9, 1945.
 - ii. Suzan Kay Duncan, B. Apr. 27, 1948.
5. Roy R. Johnston, B. Aug. 7, 1907, M. Aug. 18, 1945.
Mary Decker, B. Mar. 26, 1903.
 6. Harold H. Johnston, B. Dec. 29, 1908, M. Apr. 11, 1938,
Theola Benson, B. May 9, 1918.
- Harold H. Johnston, M. (2) Aug. 1946,
Etta Norris, B. Feb.
- i. Jerry Jay Johnston, B. Oct. 1, 1950.
7. Guy H. Johnston, B. Mar. 12, 1912. Unmarried.
 8. Ivan Poe Johnston, B. Sept. 28, 1915, M. Sept. 25, 1938,
Lucille Glendinning, B. Dec. 30, 1917.
- i. Lyle Eugene Johnston, B. Mar. 29, 1941.
 - ii. Arlo Ray Johnston, B. Apr. 2, 1944.



Mary Sigler Bell



Dell and Will Drake



Laura and Tom Williams



Grandna Dicken



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